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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## IMPEACHMENT

# Historic hearings

Diplomat: Trump overheard asking about Ukraine probes

By LISA MASCARO AND MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For the first time a top diplomat testified Wednesday that President Donald Trump was overheard asking about “the investigations” that he wanted Ukraine to pursue that are central to the impeachment inquiry.

William Taylor, the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, revealed the new information as the House Intelligence Committee opened extraordinary hearings on whether the 45th president of the United States should be removed from office.

Taylor said his staff recently told him they overheard Trump speaking on the phone to another diplomat, Ambassador Gordon Sondland, at a restaurant the day after Trump's July 25 phone call with the new leader of Ukraine that sparked the impeachment inquiry.

The staff could hear Trump on the phone asking about “the investigations,” and Sondland told the president the Ukrainians were ready to move forward, Taylor testified.

SEE HEARINGS ON PAGE 10

Top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine William Taylor, right, and career Foreign Service officer George Kent are sworn in to testify Wednesday before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

ALEX BRANDON/AP



## Post-9/11 wars have cost American taxpayers \$6.4 trillion, study finds

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — American taxpayers have spent \$6.4 trillion in nearly two decades of post-9/11 wars, which have killed about 800,000 people worldwide, the Cost of Wars Project announced Wednesday.

The numbers reflect the toll of American combat and other military operations across 80 nations since al-Qaida operatives attacked the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington in 2001, launching the United States into its longest-ever wars aimed at stamping out terrorism worldwide.

The annual spending estimates

released Wednesday show a general decline in war costs in 2019 as U.S. troops face less combat in major war zones such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

Still, the estimated price tag for those wars increased \$500 billion since November 2018, and it has doubled since the Cost of Wars Project — a product of Brown

University's Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs and Boston University's Frederick S. Pardee Center — first looked at cumulative wartime costs in 2011.

Sen. Jack Reed, of Rhode Island, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, praised the workers involved in the

■ Global War on Terrorism Memorial planned for National Mall  
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SEE COST ON PAGE 6

## MILITARY

# Fort Meade families file suit over housing issues

By ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

Ten military families filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the company responsible for on-base housing at Fort Meade, Md., because they were provided mold-infested residences and offered insufficient remediation efforts, according to court documents.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for Maryland against Corvias, the private property management company responsible for housing at Fort Meade, and its subsidiary Meade Communities, states maintenance requests went ignored or received substandard responses that did not fix the underlying issues in the homes.

The problems cited in the lawsuit filed by the Fort Meade families are similar to complaints raised in another lawsuit filed two weeks ago by eight families living in base housing on an Air Force installation in Texas managed by Hunt Military Communities. In September, a San Diego jury awarded \$2 million to a Marine Corps family for mold problems in family housing managed by Lincoln Military Housing, another of the 14 private companies that manages base housing.

Another Marine Corps family also received \$350,000 in a lawsuit against Lincoln in Virginia in 2016, though it took more than five years to conclude the case.

The 14-count complaint filed

Tuesday seeks damages "in an amount to be proven at trial" from Corvias to cover expenses related to economic harm, medical expenses and mental anguish of the 10 Fort Meade families named in the suit, as well as a classwide injunction requiring Corvias to arrange for independent certification of safe housing and prohibiting the company from receiving any service members' housing allowance for a property that has not been certified.

"We are honored and privileged to represent these brave service members and their families pro bono," said Benjamin Block, a former Army officer who is leading the 10-attorney team from Covington, an international law firm with offices in Washington that filed the lawsuit.

The injunction would require Corvias to take court-ordered actions to ensure that military families do not endure these living conditions again, Block said.

Corvias spokeswoman Kelly M. Douglas said Tuesday that the company is aware of the lawsuit.

"[The lawsuit] does not reflect the significant resources, attention and rigor that has been brought to assuring quality resident housing," she said.

The case against Corvias follows testimony by the company's founder and CEO, John Pierne, before the Senate Armed Services Committee. He told committee members in February that he was

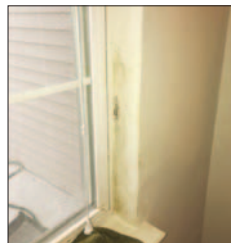
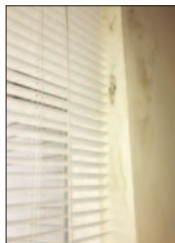
hiring resident-service specialists at Fort Meade to "focus 100 percent on local resident needs" so they could speak to a "local Corvias team member, down the street, when they have a problem," according to the lawsuit.

The 92-page suit outlines the housing conditions each family faced, the responses from Corvias and the health conditions that the families believe were caused by the mold in their homes.

When Army Col. Scott Gerber's spouse, Sandy, went to visit her mother in Texas during lung cancer treatment, her mother had an acute respiratory attack from breathing the mold spores that traveled on Gerber's clothing. They called 911, and Gerber had to throw out everything that she'd traveled with before her mother could return home. Gerber's mother developed a fungal infection believed to be related to second-hand mold exposure that will require surgery, according to the suit.

The Gerbers eventually hired their own private home inspection company to test their house for mold and then paid the expense for other families battling mold in their homes. The Gerbers found on multiple occasions that Corvias used industrial strength air-filtration machines in homes prior to air-quality testing to sway the results, according to the suit.

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Derek Buitrago and his spouse, Sandra, repeatedly requested



Covington law firm

According to a lawsuit filed Tuesday against the property management company Corvias, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Derek Buitrago's family repeatedly requested maintenance for water leaks and mold in places throughout their home, such as on this window frame.

maintenance for water leaks and mold, but workers would just wipe away the mold and paint over it, according to the lawsuit.

The couple made out their credit cards purchasing carpet cleaners, air purifiers and fans to combat the leaks themselves. Their electricity bills increased to a point that Derek Buitrago took a second job at night and donated plasma twice a week to generate extra income.

The family has since moved to Camp Lejeune, N.C., where the couple continues to sleep on an air mattress because their mattress, along with most of their furniture and their two sons' toys, had to be thrown away because of mold contamination. They can't afford to replace it.

Corvias, which manages military family housing at 15 bases in nine states, signed a 50-year contract in April 2002 to operate base housing at Fort Meade in "good order and in a clean, safe condition" at its expense, according to the lawsuit. That includes Fort Meade's five neighborhoods of 500 to 700 homes, one smaller neigh-

borhood of 112 historic homes and the commitment to construct additional housing on base.

The contract also states Corvias should uphold Maryland's housing standards, so the 14 counts outlined in the lawsuit include a handful of violations of state real estate regulations, along with violation of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, negligence, civil conspiracy and fraud.

In September, Pierne discussed a \$325 million investment at six bases, including Fort Meade. He said Fort Meade has a large inventory of two-bedroom homes that no longer meet the needs of military families because of their size. Converting them to three- or four-bedroom homes is too costly, so they deferred maintenance in these homes in anticipation of replacing them. Plans to do so were delayed.

Corvias has reduced the rent of those homes below the service member's basic allowance for housing rate, but that doesn't do it justice, Pierne said.

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Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at [www.stripes.com/relo](http://www.stripes.com/relo)



## PACIFIC

# Esper heads to S. Korea as deadlines loom

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — With several deadlines looming, the U.S. defense secretary was heading to South Korea on Wednesday for talks as the decades-old alliance between the two countries has come under pressure from inside and out.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper's agenda is likely to be topped by South Korea's decision to terminate a U.S.-backed military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, which expires at midnight on Nov. 22.

The allies also are engaged in contentious defense cost-sharing negotiations as the current contract is due to expire at the end of the year.

North Korea, meanwhile, has given the United States an end-of-year deadline to offer a more flexible approach to break the stalemate in nuclear talks between the two adversaries.

U.S. officials have stepped up pressure on Seoul to change its mind and renew the General Security of Military Information Agreement, or GSOMIA, which was signed in 2016 to help counter a growing nuclear threat from the North.

Gen. Robert Abrams, the top U.S. commander in South Korea, expressed concern about the impact that canceling the intelligence pact will have on regional security.

The defense secretary will also travel to Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam as part of his visit as the United States continues to vie with China for influence in the region.

"Will discuss areas of mutual concern, while seeking to strengthen defense cooperation & advance regional security and stability," Esper wrote in a tweet.

Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said last week that he could "practically guarantee" that the intelligence-sharing



LISA FERDINAND/Defense Department

**Defense Secretary Mark Esper is headed to South Korea amid tensions over the U.S.-South Korea alliance.**

agreement would be part of the defense secretary's discussions in South Korea.

"We're hopeful. We're optimistic. We're going to push on it," Hoffman told reporters in Washington, adding that it's necessary to focus on bigger threats such as North Korea and China.

## Cost-sharing talks

However, even the priorities for the two sides diverge as the South Koreans appear more concerned about negotiations over splitting the cost of stationing American troops on the divided peninsula.

Washington wants South Korea to sharply increase its contribution to offset the

cost of stationing some 28,500 U.S. troops on the peninsula, with some reports saying the U.S. is demanding nearly \$5 billion a year.

The two sides missed last year's deadline after months of talks but eventually agreed to a stopgap Special Measures Agreement in which the South Koreans agreed to raise their contribution 8.2% to about \$920 million for 2018.

But that contract only covered one year, as opposed to past deals that lasted five years.

Kyle Ferrier, of the Washington-based Korea Economic Institute of America, said both sides may decide on a similar approach that would buy time while giving President Donald Trump a political win ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

"I'll probably go down to the deadline — maybe even past the deadline as it did phone interview," he said Wednesday in a telephone interview.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we do another yearlong SMA and then the Moon administration tries to take its chances and tries to wait out Trump."

## Alliance worries

Surveys show that local support for the U.S.-South Korean alliance, which was forged in the 1950-53 Korean War, remains strong.

But recent events have drawn small but noisy opposition, suggesting the cost-sharing talks risk having a negative effect on opinions toward the United States, Ferrier said.

Several anti-American activists protesting the demands for South Korea to pay more tried to break into the U.S. ambassador's residence last month.

A former South Korean foreign minister, who also once served as the country's chief

negotiator for previous denuclearization talks with North Korea, suggested in an editorial Monday that South Korea develop its own nuclear arsenal.

"It's necessary for South Korea to move on to a self-reliant alliance from a dependent alliance," Song Min-soon wrote in the JoongAng Ilbo newspaper. "A defensive nuclear capacity, with a missile range limited to the Korean Peninsula, is justified."

The United States removed tactical nuclear weapons from the peninsula in 1991 and has protected South Korea and Japan under a so-called "nuclear umbrella" comprising bombers and submarines based elsewhere.

Song's suggestion reflected a long-standing fringe debate among South Korean conservatives.

But Ferrier said the fact that the suggestion was made by a relatively high-profile and centrist official shows the potential for the cost-sharing talks to spark a "shift in how the South Koreans think about the alliance."

He said the Trump administration's demands fuel concerns the United States may withdraw troops or cancel joint exercises over their cost.

Esper, who is due to arrive in South Korea on Thursday, will hold security talks the next day with Defense Minister Jeong Kyong-doo during the 51st Security Consultative Meeting in Seoul.

Other items to be discussed include South Korea's efforts to assume wartime operational control of its troops from the United States and the return of several U.S. military bases on the peninsula, according to the Defense Ministry.

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# USFK commander weighs in on dispute over Japan-S. Korea intel-sharing pact

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's decision to end a military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan risks sending the wrong message on security in the region, the top American commander on the peninsula said 11 days before the agreement is due to expire.

Gen. Robert Abrams, who commands U.S. Forces Korea, made the comments ahead of a visit to South Korea later this week by Defense Secretary Mark Esper.

South Korea gave notice in August that it planned to terminate the U.S.-backed General Security of Military Information Agreement, or GSOMIA, due to a spat with Japan over trade and historical enemies.

The U.S. administration, which considers the pact vital to trilateral cooperation against threats from North Korea and China, has been pressing Seoul to change its mind ahead of the midnight Nov. 22 expiration date.

"The fundamental principle of the information-sharing agreement was a clear message to the region that [South Korea] and Japan put aside perhaps historical differences," Abrams told report-

ers Tuesday at Camp Humphreys, where USFK is headquartered.

"Together, we are much stronger for providing for a stable and secure Northeast Asia. And without that, there is a risk of sending the wrong message that perhaps we're not as strong," he said.

The agreement, which was signed in 2016, streamlined the intelligence-sharing process by enabling Tokyo and Seoul to communicate directly instead of having to go through Washington.

The three countries have other information exchange mechanisms, but experts say canceling the agreement will likely slow the process at a pivotal time as North Korea has recently resumed missile launches.

South Korea has insisted it would reconsider the decision only if Japan agrees to lift export curbs.

Seoul, which is seeking further compensation for Japan's 1910-45 occupation of South Korea, believes Tokyo imposed the curbs as a form of economic retaliation.

The dispute over intelligence sharing along with contentious defense cost-sharing talks between South Korea and the United States have raised concerns about the future of the alliance

between the two nations that fought together in the 1950-53 Korean War.

The current cost-sharing contract, known as the Special Measures Agreement, expires at the end of the year.

Abrams noted that the State Department, which is leading the negotiations, has said the South Korean government "can and should pay more."

"I agree with that," he said. "And I'll remain optimistic we find some common ground between our two governments."

The four-star general assumed command of USFK as well as the United Nations Command and the Combined Forces Command last November as diplomatic efforts to persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons were at a high point.

Talks have since stalled as Washington and Pyongyang failed to agree on the extent of denuclearization and sanctions relief despite a series of summits and working-level talks.

The North has agreed to suspend long-range missile and nuclear tests but has warned it may lift that moratorium if the U.S. doesn't offer a more flexible approach by the end of the year.



MARCUS BUTLER/U.S. Army

**Gen. Robert Abrams meets with media at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Tuesday.**

It recently launched a series of short-range missiles and rockets, but President Donald Trump played down concerns about the weapons testing, citing a good relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Abrams said the U.S. and South Korean militaries were studying the launches closely.

"We take every one of those very seriously to determine ca-

pabilities, limitations and intent," he said.

"I think these missile tests that we have seen in 2019 are not contributing to a continued arc of detente on the Korean Peninsula," Abrams said. "I don't think they are helpful to foster an environment for the very important work of our diplomats to continue."

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## MILITARY

# US cruiser sails through Taiwan Strait

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — For the eighth time this year, a Navy vessel has sailed through the contentious waters between Taiwan and mainland China, officials said Wednesday.

The guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville made its way through the 110-mile-wide Taiwan Strait on Tuesday.

China views the strait as territorial waters and asserts that foreign vessels must get permission before sailing through the area. International law does not recognize that requirement and consid-

ers the strait an open waterway.

The transit was routine and in accordance with international law, 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Reann Mommsen said in an email Wednesday.

Mommsen said the Navy will continue to "operate anywhere international law allows."

The U.S. considers Taiwan's status unsettled but adheres to the "One China" policy, acknowledging that Beijing asserts sovereignty over Taiwan.

This year, the U.S. markedly increased the number of trips its vessels make through the Taiwan Strait. It has sent a ship through

the strait once a month from January through March and again in May, June, July, September and now November.

Last year, just two Navy vessels sailed through the strait. Prior to July 2018, a year had passed without a U.S. transit there.

In July, China's State Council Information Office, in a defense white paper, said U.S. passage through waters China claims are "wrong practices and provocative activities."

It also said China would "make no promise to renounce the use of force" against those who try separating Taiwan from the Chinese

mainland. Beijing considers reunification a top national priority. The U.S. has not taken a stance on the separation.

Gen. Li Zuocheng, chief of the Chinese military's Joint Staff Department, during a January meeting with former U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson warned that "if anyone wants to separate Taiwan from China, the Chinese military will safeguard the national unity at all costs, so as to protect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity," according to the South China Morning Post.

Richardson later told report-



U.S. Navy

**The guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville sails through the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday.**

ers in Tokyo he assured Li that the U.S. was "committed to the One China policy with respect to Taiwan."

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## USS Truman repairs completed after carrier's electrical malfunction

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The repairs to the USS Harry S. Truman are completed, nearly three months after the aircraft carrier returned to Norfolk, Va., for an electrical malfunction, the Navy announced Tuesday.

The repairs delayed the Truman from taking part in a planned deployment in September, according to USNI News.

During a predeployment exercise in

late August, the Truman experienced the electrical malfunction, forcing the ship to return to Norfolk, USNI News reported at the time.

Damaged components were replaced and tested to make certain there were no additional issues, according to the Navy. They also determined the problem was limited to the Truman and no other Nimitz-class ship.

While the Truman was undergoing repairs, its escort ships, which include de-

stroyers, deployed in September without the aircraft carrier. Those ships are now escorting the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf, according to USNI News. The Lincoln had its own deployment extended for an unknown length of time because the Truman was not available to replace it, the Virginian-Pilot reported last month.

The Lincoln, which had been making its way across the world toward its new home port in San Diego, has been in the Middle

East since May, when U.S. Central Command requested the aircraft carrier deploy to the region early due to rising tensions with Iran.

Now that the Truman is repaired, "every effort is being made to make the carrier, air wing and sailors operationally ready to deploy," the Navy said in its statement. The service did not say how soon the ship would deploy.

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## MILITARY

# Coast Guard to name cutters after reservists

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

Two Sentinel-class fast-response cutters will be named for Coast Guard veterans who lost their lives as first responders in New York City on 9/11, the service announced recently.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Vincent Danz was a New York City police officer with the Emergency Services Unit in the Bronx, and Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey Palazzo was a New York City firefighter for Rescue 5 on Staten Island when two planes struck the twin towers of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks.

Danz and Palazzo, both Coast Guard reservists, were killed aiding victims at the scene.

"These cutters and their crews will sail into storms when others turn and flee, and like their namesakes, they will put service before self so others may live," Coast Guard commandant Adm. Karl Schultz said during a ceremony Tuesday in lower Manhattan, according to WABC-TV New York.

The Coast Guard first announced Oct. 23 that Danz, Palazzo and eight other "Coast Guard heroes" will have ships named for them in coming years. The



JOHN HIGHTOWER/U.S. Coast Guard

**Lisa Palazzo, center left, and Angela Danz-Donahue pose with Coast Guard commandant Adm. Karl Schultz, center, after two cutters were named after their late husbands in New York on Tuesday.**

other eight honorees include Coast Guard legends, pioneers of gender and racial equality and heroes of World War II.

Schultz formally announced the decision regarding Danz and Palazzo during the ceremony at the East Coast WWII Memorial in Battery Park, attended by the widows of both men.

"The ships bearing their names will be symbols of everything our organizations stand for and they'll serve as a visible reminder

of the sacrifices made by the first responders on 9/11," Schultz said, according to a short video from the ceremony released by the Defense Department.

"The crews that will sail aboard future cutters Vincent Danz and Jeff Palazzo will carry on the legacy of these two American heroes," he added.

The cutters are slated to be delivered starting in 2023, according to a Defense Department statement.



Danz



Palazzo

The Sentinel-class fast-response cutters make up the backbone of the Coast Guard's coastal patrol fleet. They are responsible for drug and migrant interdiction, patrolling and protecting ports, waterways and coastal security, fishery patrols, search

and rescue and national defense. The ships are to be 154 feet long, with crews of 24, Newsday reported, citing Coast Guard officials. They will be built by Bollinger Shipyards of Louisiana at a cost of approximately \$58 million each.

Danz was believed to have been on the fourth floor of the World Trade Center's North Tower when the buildings came down, Newsday reported. His remains were recovered three months

after the tragedy. "Pray for me and pray for these people," he said in his last words recorded on a home answering machine message for his wife, Newsday said. "I love you. I'll talk to you soon."

Palazzo also lost his life trying to rescue people at the scene, the Coast Guard message said.

"Helping other people came as naturally as breathing to him," Angela Danz-Donahue said of her late husband in the Defense Department video. "Knowing there will be a vessel at sea with Vincent's name is to know that he will not be forgotten."

At the Tuesday ceremony, Palazzo's widow, Lisa Palazzo, thanked attendees that included New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, police commissioner James O'Neill and fire chief John Sudnik because they had helped her children learn more about the type of man their father was.

"It was his nature to always put others first and he continues to be a shining example for my children," Lisa Palazzo said. "The naming of this Coast Guard cutter goes beyond what we could have ever hoped for. It's an honor he would not feel worthy of."

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# Happy Thanksgiving

## Buffet Dinners with Yokosuka MWR

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MILITARY

# New memorial to honor veterans of war on terrorism

By STEVE BEYNON  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. wars against terrorism have lasted 18 years, and post-9/11 veterans and service members could soon have a memorial on the National Mall to honor their service.

Reps. Jason Crow, D-Colo., and Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., introduced a bill Tuesday to propose locations for a new memorial to honor veterans of the Global War on Terrorism. President Donald Trump approved the construction of a new memorial in 2017, and the proposed legislation designates options of where to build it in Washington. The three possible locations place the new memorial near the Korean, Vietnam and World War II memorials.

"In some ways, these are becoming forgotten conflicts," said Crow, an Army veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "I never pass an opportunity to highlight these conflicts are still ongoing. We've been at this for almost two decades."

The proposed Global War on Terrorism Memorial has a target to open in 2024. It would be the first dedication to a war's veterans on the National Mall while the conflict is ongoing. Nearly 8,500 Americans have been killed

in combat since 2001.

"The Global War on Terrorism is old enough to vote and it doesn't look like it's going anywhere anytime soon," said Gallagher, a Marine Corps veteran of the Iraq War. "Honoring their service, as

**'Honoring their service, as well as the sacrifices of all those who have served in the Global War on Terrorism, is overdue.'**

Mike Gallagher  
R-Wis.

well as the sacrifices of all those who have served in the Global War on Terrorism, is overdue." The memorial is funded through donations to The Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation, a nonprofit aiming to raise about \$50 million for the project. The memorial is in the early planning stages and there aren't any proposed designs yet. The price tag could increase depending on the memorial's location and design, according to Michael "Rod" Rodriguez, an Army Special Forces veteran and CEO of the foundation.

## New war memorial planned for National Mall

Two House lawmakers introduced a bill Tuesday to propose three locations for the new Global War on Terrorism Memorial in Washington. The potential sites are all located on the National Mall. The choices are: site 1, Constitution Gardens, near the Vietnam War Memorial; site 2, JFK Hockey Fields, across from West Potomac Park; and site 3, near the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool between the Korean and World War II memorials.



SOURCES: Offices of Reps. Jason Crow and Mike Gallagher

ANDREA VILLARI/Stars and Stripes

"This memorial, when built, is for the men and women who have died fighting, those who continue to fight and those who are still joining the fight against terrorism," Rodriguez wrote earlier this year in a blog post.

"By building a national memorial in their honor, we are building a memorial to a living war — something that's never been

done in this country. But then again, the GWOT is a war unlike any we have ever seen. This is our nation's first and only multi-generational war. We cannot look to past precedent on when memorials were built, as this conflict has no precedent."

The bill is expected to pass easily through Congress, according to Rodriguez, Crow and Gallag-

her. At that point, the National Capital Memorial Commission and the National Capital Planning Commission will be able to select a final location for the memorial.

A World War I memorial is also planned for Pershing Park near the White House. It's unclear when the project will be complete.

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## Cost: Homeland anti-terrorism measures are included in study's estimates

### FROM FRONT PAGE

project — some 35 scholars, legal experts, human rights practitioners and physicians.

"The budget of the Pentagon is difficult to weed through is an understatement," Reed said. "My hope is that this report will continue to inform, educate and serve as a resource as we consider these wars going forward ... to give us a better sense of the costs of wars not in a snapshot, but the long-term costs."

"This should be for us (in Congress) a guide to our policies, our procedures and actions going forward."

The actual monetary and human costs of these wars is difficult to discern, said a Boston University political science professor, who blasted the lack of budget transparency of federal institutions including the Pentagon and departments of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security.

In recent years, Crawford asserted those institutions have made accessing information on how they spend taxpayer dollars more difficult, including where money is being spent overseas because items that were once reported are now "disappearing from the budget."

She argued Wednesday that without proper accounting, the American public

cannot shape informed opinions on the courses of these wars, which are generally viewed as "winding down" but continue to cost thousands of lives in 2019.

The Pentagon's share of the spending includes the nearly \$2 trillion since 2001 in overseas contingency operations funds — the wartime spending coffers used to fund most operations in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

The Defense Department has added more than \$900 billion to its base budgets since those operations began, which it likely would not have needed in peacetime, Crawford said.

But the project's cost estimates consider not only Pentagon wartime spending, but also about \$1 trillion in spending on homeland anti-terrorism measures, \$131 billion for State Department wartime spending, \$437 billion for veterans care through fiscal year 2020 and \$925 billion of interest payments that the United States will pay on

money borrowed to fund those operations.

It also includes a projected price tag of more than \$1 trillion in future spending on medical care through fiscal year 2059 for the men and women who have fought these wars, which is anticipated to grow further, even if the wars were to end in the next year.

"That's a very rough estimate," Crawford said. "I think it's low-balling, honestly."

The costs of America's post-9/11 wars include not only money but the loss of lives, which the report estimated to have exceeded 800,000 people. That tally includes combatants and noncombatants in countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

The report outlines the toll on Americans. Since operations were launched in Afghanistan in the weeks after the 9/11 attacks, 7,014 U.S. service members have died in American wars, 22 Pentagon civilians have been killed and 7,950 U.S. con-

tractors have died.

Other deaths include more than 12,000 among U.S. allied troops, 173,000 in the ranks of national military and police forces, nearly 300,000 enemy fighters killed and more than 310,000 civilian deaths.

Those tallies remain largely incomplete, Crawford said, estimating that civilian deaths in war zones where Americans have operated could be twice those reported but were impossible to verify.

She urged better transparency from the Pentagon — and other federal institutions — on budget decisions and ongoing operations in the wars.

"There's a lot of blood and treasure spent, but we're not sure if [the wars] are successful," Crawford said, highlighting recent Pentagon estimates of the number of Taliban fighters in Afghanistan that show strength similar to what it held in 2001 and estimates of Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria that show the group might still boast 35,000 to 100,000 fighters following its loss of territory earlier this year.

"So how successful is the strategy and how successful could it be?" she asked. "... We can't assess in some instances what those answers are."

**'So how successful is the strategy and how successful could it be? ... We can't assess in some instances what those answers are.'**

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## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Leaders meet amid strained US-Turkey ties

By DEB RIECHMANN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President Donald Trump met Wednesday as relations between the NATO allies are at their lowest point in decades, with Turkey drifting closer to Russia and Ankara facing a Washington backlash over its offensive against Kurds in Syria.

Erdogan and Trump have a difficult agenda. They will discuss Turkey's decision to buy a Russian air defense system despite its membership in NATO and its incursion into Syria to attack Kurdish forces who have fought with the U.S. against Islamic State. The issues threaten to jeopardize a potentially lucrative trade deal between the two countries.

The leaders' news conference, following a meeting with Republican lawmakers at the White House, gave Trump a stage to counter the first public hearings in the House impeachment inquiry. Just before warmly welcoming Erdogan to the White House, Trump tweeted that the House Democrats were "trying to stop me, because I'm fighting for you. And I'll never let that happen."

Trump notes Turkey has been a critical U.S. ally for decades and cites the economic upside to the relationship as a reason to overcome the differences. Some lawmakers say Erdogan should never have been invited to the White House in the first place.

Last month, the House overwhelmingly passed a bill to sanction senior Turkish officials and its army for the military incursion into Syria to fight the Kurds. Erdogan sees Kurdish forces in Syria as an extension of a sepa-



EVAN VUCCI/AP

**President Donald Trump met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the White House on Wednesday, as relations between the two NATO allies are at their lowest point in decades.**

ratist group that's been fighting inside Turkey since the 1980s.

"This is not the time or place to be extending hospitality and exchanging niceties with a dictator," said Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, a New Hampshire Democrat who sits on the Foreign Relations and Armed Services committees.

In the Senate, two Democrats introduced legislation denouncing Turkey's targeting of journalists, political opponents, dissidents, minorities and others. They said the Turkish government had imprisoned more than 80,000 Turkish citizens, closed more than 1,500 non-governmental organizations on terrorism-related grounds and dismissed or suspended more than 130,000 civil servants from their jobs.

In October, Trump moved U.S.

troops in Syria out of the way of invading Turkish troops, a decision that critics said amounted to abandoning America's Kurdish allies to be attacked.

Trump administration officials have said the president told Turkey not to invade Syria. But when Erdogan insisted, they say, Trump moved 28 Green Berets operating on the Turkey-Syria border so they wouldn't be caught in a crossfire between Turkish-backed forces and the Kurds.

A State Department official said Trump is not rewarding Erdogan with a White House visit but is conducting diplomacy. The official said high-level consultations are needed because of the volatile situation in Syria that has displaced tens of thousands of people.

39, and said he was an American citizen of Jordanian background.

An Associated Press journalist at the Greek side of the border, said the man stood some 50 yards away from the Turkish passport control on the Turkish side of the no man's land, with one or two Turkish border soldiers and four other men.

A car with Turkish number plates approached, along with four men on foot, with the man in the car addressing the ISIS suspect as "Mohammad." The ISIS suspect turned around and asked in an American accent if he would be "able to speak today." The Turkish man replied "maybe."

Asked to comment on the reports about the man, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday: "Whether they are stuck there at the border it doesn't concern us. We will continue to send them. Whether they take them or not, it is not our concern."

## Ankara says it recently captured an 'important' ISIS figure in Syria

By SUZAN FRASER  
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's interior minister said Wednesday that his country's forces have captured an "important" figure within Islamic State, in Syria.

Suleyman Soylu said the suspect is still being interrogated but did not identify the person or provide further details.

"We recently captured an important man within [ISIS] in Syria. He has given information on the things he did. His interrogation is continuing," Soylu said.

Turkey has said it captured and detained several members of the family of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, including one of his wives, his sister and a daughter.

Al-Baghdadi blew himself up during an Oct. 26 raid by U.S. Special Forces on his heavily fortified safe house in the Syrian province of Idlib.

Turkey has been publicizing its efforts to catch ISIS members,

following criticism that its recent military offensive to drive Syrian Kurdish fighters from northern east Syria would lead to an ISIS resurgence.

Since the incursion, Turkey is also engaged in a push to deport foreign ISIS members who are held in Turkish prisons or in Syria. Three foreign ISIS suspects — from the United States, Denmark and Germany — were deported on Monday, while an official said seven Germans would be expelled on Thursday. Turkey also plans to soon deport two Irish and 11 French nationals.

On Wednesday, a suspected ISIS member was seen in a heavily militarized no man's land between Turkey and Greece for a third straight day. Greek officials have said Turkey tried to expel the man, a U.S. national, to Greece but Athens refused him entry.

Turkish media have identified him as Mohammad Darwis B.,

## US military imagery shows possible abuses by Turk-backed forces

By MISSY RYAN  
The Washington Post

Footage captured by U.S. surveillance aircraft over northern Syria has documented several incidents that military officials say may constitute war crimes on the part of Turkish-backed forces there, a U.S. official said.

If verified, the imagery could provide credibility to allegations that the offensive Turkey launched over Western objections last month has resulted in repeated abuses against Syrian Kurds who have been an important U.S. partner against Islamic State.

A U.S. military official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an internal assessment, cautioned that it remains difficult based on the aerial footage alone to definitively determine what occurred in two similar incidents along a major Syrian highway in mid-October.

The imagery suggests that fighters from a group armed and funded by Turkey, which the Pentagon identifies as the Turkish Supported Opposition, may have apprehended two Syrian Kurds and shot them, the official said, but added that it is not seen as conclusive proof.

The existence of the videos, each titled "Alleged TSO Civ Cas Shooting," was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Recordings of the incidents, which were first viewed in real time, were referred to senior levels of the Pentagon for broader discussions within the administration.

The U.S. military also is tracking other possible abuses by the Turkish-backed forces that have been reported by activists or leaders from the Syrian Democratic Forces, a Kurdish-led group that U.S. special operations troops have worked closely with in Syria for four years.

The Turkish-backed forces are seeking to push the Kurdish group, which Ankara sees as a terrorist threat, back from the area near Syria's border with Turkey.

News of the footage came to light on the eve of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Washington, an event that has intensified criticism of President Donald Trump's Syria policy. Many Democrats and some Republicans say Trump erred in making an abrupt decision in October to pull U.S. forces back from positions in northern Syria, opening the way for Erdogan to launch a long-promised offensive against Syrian Kurds there.

The Pentagon has been scrambling to adjust to Trump's decision. While the administration

has backed away from an immediate full withdrawal from Syria, it is repositioning forces there and has scaled back its mission against ISIS. The militant group no longer holds territory but is believed to retain an important insurgent capability.

The American repositioning has allowed Russian and Syrian government forces to enter areas that they had been shut out of for years, strengthening the position of Syrian President Bashar Assad in his quest to reclaim all Syrian territory.

The Turkish offensive, officially named "Operation Peace Spring," has further disrupted U.S. relations with Turkey, a NATO ally, at a time when Ankara's decision to acquire air defense systems from Russia already had created significant strain.

Despite those objections, Trump approved Erdogan's visit after the Turkish government agreed to a U.S.-brokered ceasefire deal that cemented a Kurdish withdrawal from certain areas of northern Syria.

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## WAR/MILITARY

# Car bombing in Kabul kills 12, including 3 kids

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Twelve people were killed and at least 20 wounded Wednesday when a car bomb exploded in the north of Kabul, shattering weeks of relative calm in the Afghan capital, officials said.

The attack at 7:25 a.m. occurred near an Interior Ministry building, not far from the city's airport, said Interior Ministry deputy spokeswoman Marwa Amin.

NATO forces and the Air Force's 438th Air Expeditionary Wing are housed in the airport, but a Resolute Support spokesman said no service members were killed or wounded in the blast.

Three children were killed in the attack, not five as reported earlier, Amin said. Four foreign employees of Canadian private security firm GardaWorld were among the injured, she said.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, which came

a day after President Ashraf Ghani announced that the Afghan government would free three high-level Taliban leaders in exchange for the release of two professors from the American University of Afghanistan, who have been held captive by the Taliban since 2016.

**'As  
Afghans  
demand  
peace,  
terrorists  
answer  
with  
violence.'**

**Nick Kay**  
NATO senior  
civilian  
representative  
to Afghanistan

special envoy for Afghanistan Roland Kobia. "I would have thought that an important gesture such as the release of high-profile Taliban prisoners would be honoured & saluted by something like a



PHOTOS BY RAHMAT GUL/AP

Foreign and Afghan security personnel gather at the site of a car bomb attack in Kabul on Wednesday.

ceasefire rather than a car bomb killing civilians/children," Kobia tweeted.

The attack comes during a deadly year for civilians in Afghanistan. The United Nations has said more than 2,500 civilians have been killed and 5,500 wounded in the first nine months of 2019.

"I strongly condemn today's #Kabul attack, killing & injuring civilians including children," tweeted NATO senior civilian representative to Afghanistan Nick Kay. "As Afghans demand peace, terrorists answer with violence."

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Damage is shown from the bomb that detonated during the morning commute.

## Schumer raises concerns over Army's use of TikTok app

By LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army's use of a China-owned video app called TikTok as part of a new campaign to recruit young people into the service is raising concerns on Capitol Hill.

Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer sent a letter to Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy asking about potential national security risks posed by the social media platform.

Schumer said national security experts have raised concerns about TikTok's collection and handling of user data, including personal information, locations and other content. And he noted that Chinese laws compel companies to cooperate with China's

government and intelligence collection.

"While I recognize that the Army must adapt its recruiting techniques in order to attract young Americans to serve, I urge you to assess the potential national security risks posed by China-owned technology companies before choosing to utilize certain platforms," Schumer, D-N.Y., said in the letter.

His comments came in the wake of broader U.S. interest in TikTok, which is used by millions of young adults and teenagers. The U.S. Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, which reviews acquisitions by foreign firms, has started a preliminary review of TikTok owner ByteDance's acquisition of another app, Musical.ly, according

to an official.

The committee does not comment on specific cases, but an official familiar with the matter said preliminary discussions are underway. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Lt. Col. Audricia Harris, a spokeswoman for McCarthy, said Tuesday that the Army is aware of the TikTok concerns.

"While these concerns are not unique to any specific social media platform, we take matters of security seriously and make every effort to ensure our force is safeguarding sensitive and personal information," Harris said.

TikTok has said its data is not subject to Chinese law and that it does not remove content based on "sensitivities related to China."

On the app, people share short videos, often set to music.

Faced with recruiting struggles, the Army over the past year has begun to shift to more online communications, saying that young people are now more interested in connecting online rather than in person. As a result, the Army is sending teams of recruiters into popular gaming contexts such as Ultimate Fighter, Madden Football or the addictive Fortnite: Battle Royale, an online survival game. And recruiters are allowed to use online apps to reach young people.

The issue has also been raised as a wider concern for Defense Department personnel. Lt. Col. Uriah Orland, a Pentagon spokesman, said the Defense Department doesn't provide specific

guidance on individual social media platforms, but instead issues broader recommendations.

"Threats posed by social media are not unique to TikTok, though they may certainly be greater on that platform, and DOD personnel must be cautious when making any public or social media post," he said.

Schumer also asked the U.S. intelligence community to assess national security risks of TikTok and other Chinese-owned content platforms in the U.S.

In his letter to McCarthy, Schumer asked if the Army consulted with the intelligence community about TikTok and other China-owned platforms, or if there were future plans to do so.

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## MILITARY

# Navy says it did not receive an order to end Black Sea patrols

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Navy said it never received an order to halt warship maneuvers in the Black Sea earlier this year, despite testimony in a congressional impeachment hearing that President Donald Trump asked for the cancellation after he heard about it on television.

“U.S. 6th Fleet conducted our naval operations in the Black Sea region as scheduled in January and February 2019,” Cmdr. Kyle Raines, a spokesman for Naval Forces Europe-Africa, said Wednesday.

The question about a disruption in the Navy’s mission emerged during Congress’ impeachment inquiry into whether Trump withheld military support for Ukraine to pressure Kyiv into launching an investigation into political rival Joe Biden and his son, Hunter.

Christopher Anderson, a U.S. foreign service officer who served

as a special adviser on Ukraine until July, told the House’s select committee on intelligence that Trump was upset in January about a CNN report on a Navy patrol in the Black Sea.

He told then-national security adviser John Bolton to end the mission, according to Anderson’s testimony released by lawmakers Monday.

“I can’t speculate as to why. But that, that operation was canceled,” he said, adding that patrols resumed in February.

However, NAVEUR said Wednesday that no missions in the Black Sea were canceled or aborted in January.

The USS Fort McHenry conducted maneuvers in the Black Sea in early January. That was followed by a patrol that month by the USS Donald Cook, which visited Georgia, NAVEUR said.

The service carried out similar operations in February. It has become routine for the Navy to send warships into the Black Sea,



Yoruek Isik

**With Istanbul in the background, the USS Donald Cook heads for the Black Sea in January. The Navy is disputing a claim that President Donald Trump ordered warship maneuvers in the Black Sea halted.**

where they train with regional allies to deter potential Russian aggression.

The area also has been a flashpoint between Ukraine and Russia. In November 2018, Russia opened fire on three Ukrainian vessels at the Kerch Strait, a narrow passage that connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Azov.

After the confrontation, the U.S. called on allies to demonstrate more support for Ukraine. In April, NATO members responded with an agreement to

boost their presence by conducting more port visits and boosting intelligence gathering in the region.

Anderson said patrols in the Black Sea were part of a broader effort to foster a stronger response to Russia after the clash at the Kerch Strait.

One key U.S. Navy patrol, he said, was a port visit in February by the USS Donald Cook to Ukraine’s port of Odessa, which was timed to the five-year anniversary of Russia’s military

intervention in the country and eventual seizure of the Crimean Peninsula.

“So it was a pretty robust message to the Russians that we are not taking this,” Anderson said. “We are taking this seriously and not lying down.”

In later back-channel diplomacy talks, Anderson said “they (the Russians) admitted this was a very sharp message that they heard loud and clear.”

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## NATION



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

From left: Rep. Jim Himes, D-Conn.; Daniel Goldman, director of investigations for the House Intelligence Committee Democrats; House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif.; Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., the ranking member; Steve Castor, the Republican's staff attorney; and Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, gather for the opening of the first public impeachment hearing of President Donald Trump's efforts to tie U.S. aid for Ukraine to investigations of his political opponents on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

## Hearings: Panel hears from 2 veteran foreign service officers

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Not inappropriate, let alone impeachable, countered the intelligence panel's top Republican, Rep. Devin Nunes, of California.

Trump "would have a perfectly good reason for wanting to find out what happened" if there were indications that Ukraine mediated in the 2016 presidential election, he said.

National security officials have told Congress they don't believe Ukraine meddled in the 2016 election.

The hearing Wednesday was the first public session of the impeachment inquiry.

It's the first chance for America, and the rest of the world, to see and hear for themselves about Trump's actions toward Ukraine and consider whether they are, in fact, impeachable offenses.

An anonymous whistleblower's complaint to the intelligence community's inspector general — including that Trump had pressed Ukraine's president to investigate Democratic foe Joe Biden and Bidens' son and was holding up U.S. military aid — ignited the rare inquiry now unfolding in Congress.

The country has been here only three times before, and never against the 21st-century backdrop of real-time commentary, including from the Republican president himself. The proceedings were being broadcast live, and on social media, from a packed hearing room on Capitol Hill.

The session unfolded in measured, quietly dramatic tones. Taylor, a former Army infantry leader, his voice weathered after a 50-year career in foreign service, paused for sips of water during what he acknowledged was a lengthy recitation of facts. It took 40 minutes.

The scene, with Republican questioning still to come, was offering the credibility that Democrats wanted to set the stage and sway public opinions, but Trump still of-

fered counterprogramming.

Moments after the hearings began, his reelection machine sent out an email blast: "FAKE IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS HAVE BEGUN! ... I WANT TO RAISE 3 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS."

At the start, Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the Intelligence Committee, outlined the question at the core of the impeachment inquiry — whether the president used his office to pressure Ukraine officials for personal political gain.

"The matter is as simple and as terrible as that," said Schiff of California. "Our answer to these questions will affect not only the future of this presidency but the future of the presidency itself, and what kind of conduct or misconduct the American people may come to expect from their commander in chief."

Republican lawmakers immediately pushed Democrats to hear in closed session from the anonymous whistleblower.

Schiff denied the request at the time but said it would be considered later.

"We will do everything necessary to protect the whistleblower's identity," Schiff declared.

Nunes accused the Democratic majority of conducting a "scorched-earth" effort to take down the president after the special counsel's Russia investigation into the 2016 election failed to spark impeachment proceedings.

"We're supposed to take these people at face value when they trot out new allegations?" said Nunes, a top Trump ally.

He derided what he called the "cultlike atmosphere in the basement of the Capitol" where investigators have been interviewing witnesses behind closed doors for weeks. Transcripts of those interviews have been released.

Nunes called the Ukraine matter a "low rent" sequel to the Russia probe. "Demo-

crats are advancing their impeachment sham," he said.

Both Taylor and the other public witness, George Kent, a deputy assistant secretary at the State Department, defied White House instructions not to testify. They both received subpoenas to appear.

The veteran foreign service officers delivered heartfelt history lessons about Ukraine, a young and hopeful democracy, situated next to Russia but reaching out to the West.

Kent, in his opening remarks, directly contradicted a core complaint against Joe Biden being raised by allies of the White House, saying he never heard any U.S. official try to shield a Ukraine company from investigations.

Kent acknowledged that he himself raised concerns in 2015 about the then-president's son, Hunter Biden, being on the board of Burisma, a Ukraine gas company. He warned that it could give the "perception of a conflict of interest." But Kent indicated no one from the U.S. was protecting the company from investigations in Ukraine as Republicans have implied.

"Let me be clear; however, I did not witness any efforts by any U.S. official to shield Burisma from scrutiny," Kent said.

The career diplomat did not go into detail about the issues central to the impeachment inquiry, but he voiced his concerns with them.

"I do not believe the United States should ask other countries to engage in selective, politically associated investigations or prosecutions against opponents of those in power, because such selective actions undermine the rule of law regardless of the country," he said.

So far, the narrative being unspooled in weeks of investigations for the inquiry is splitting Americans, mostly along the same lines as Trump's unusual presidency.

The Constitution sets a dramatic but

vague bar for impeachment, and there's no consensus yet that Trump's actions at the heart of the inquiry meet the threshold of "high crimes and misdemeanors."

Trump calls the whole thing a "witch hunt," a retort that echoes then-President Richard Nixon's own defense.

At its core, the inquiry stems from Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine's newly elected president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, when he asked Zelenskyy for "a favor."

Trump wanted the Ukraine government to investigate Democrats in the 2016 election and his potential 2020 rival, Joe Biden, all while holding as leverage military aid the young democracy relies on as it confronts an aggressive Russia.

The anonymous whistleblower first alerted officials to concerns about the phone call. The White House released a rough transcript of the conversation, with portions deleted.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was initially reluctant to launch a formal impeachment inquiry. But she pressed ahead in September after the whistleblower's complaint.

Over the past month, witness after witness has appeared behind closed doors to tell the investigators what they know.

Whether Wednesday's proceedings begin to end a presidency or help secure Trump's position, it was certain his chaotic term had finally arrived at a place he could not control and a force — the constitutional system of checks and balances — that he could not ignore.

Unlike the Watergate hearings and Nixon, there is not yet a "cancer-on-the-presidency" moment galvanizing public opinion. Nor is there the national shrug, as happened when Bill Clinton's impeachment ultimately didn't result in his removal from office. It's perhaps most like the partisanship-infused impeachment of Andrew Johnson after the Civil War.



## NATION

## Group of senators push for online protections for vets

By STEVE BEYNON  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Some Senate Democrats are pressing the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs on what efforts the agencies are taking to protect veterans and service members from online foreign disinformation, fraud efforts and spy recruitment.

Twenty senators signed letters sent Monday to Defense Secretary Mark Esper and VA Secretary Robert Wilkie urging action to protect veterans and service members after a two-year study found the military community is targeted through social media by foreign agents.

In September, Vietnam Veterans of America, a nonprofit veterans advocacy group, released a report that found "persistent, pervasive, and coordinated online targeting of American service members, veterans, and their families by foreign entities who seek to disrupt American democracy." The report also found evidence of interference in the 2020 election cycle targeting veterans on most major social media platforms, similar to efforts by Russia during the 2016 U.S. elections.

"We want to inquire about the current efforts by the Department of Defense to educate service members and DoD civilian employees about online disinformation campaigns and other malign influence operations by Russian, Chinese, and other foreign entities and individuals," the senators wrote. "While DoD is currently authorized to provide training to all service members and DoD civilian employees about measures by the Russian government and its proxies to influence and recruit service members as part of its malign influence campaign, the department is not formally required to provide this training."

The senators, who include presidential candidates Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.; Kamala Harris, D-Calif.; and Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., are asking the Defense Department and VA to respond by Dec. 6 on how the agencies plan to train service members and educate veterans on how to identify malicious foreign agents online and how to avoid falling victim to propaganda and fraud.

The letters were sent as public hearings start Wednesday in the impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump. The impeachment inquiry centers around Trump's willingness to request the Ukrainian government investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a Democratic candidate for president in 2020. Trump has routinely disputed Russia interfered in the 2016 election, and Democrats have contended he is downplaying or ignoring threats against U.S. elections.

House lawmakers were also planning to discuss a similar issue in a Wednesday afternoon hearing. It was slated to explore misuse of veterans' identification for the dissemination of fake news, political propaganda, romance

scams and commercial fraud.

The VVA's report found known Russian propaganda and similar politically divisive content that targets service members and veterans is being spread by agents from at least 30 foreign countries, with concentrations in Eastern Europe and Vietnam.

The bogus information targeting troops and veterans is largely geared toward affecting the 2020 election in President Donald Trump's favor, according to the VVA report. Foreign agents will often create seemingly pro-veteran social media pages and sprinkle in propaganda and junk information to misinform veterans purposely about politics.

A Facebook page called "Vets for Trump" was operated by agents from the U.K. and Macedonia from April to August and amassed more than 131,000 followers, according to the VVA's report. The report also noted agents from the U.K. and Macedonia in multiple countries and in some cases with no geographic commonalities and language barriers.

"This page posts explicitly pro-Trump and anti-Democratic-candidate messages and memes. The page also posts pro-Russia/Putin, pro-Assange/WikiLeaks, as well as anti-Robert Mueller and anti-FBI content," according to the senator's letter.

To appear more legitimate, malicious foreign agents recruit Americans to moderate social media pages intended to distribute propaganda, according to the VVA report. To be more discreet, not all posts are memes intended to misinform or lampoon Democrats. The pages talk about veterans benefits and give out legitimate information in between posting memes of Democrats or bolstering the Trump administration.

One Facebook page, "Veterans of Vietnam," with nearly 160,000 followers at one time, has had agents in Russia, Ukraine and Italy. The page has been bolstered by at least three dedicated Russia-generated, Vietnam veteran-focused websites that were created to build the page's credibility by sharing information about the Vietnam War and veterans benefits, VVA said.

Foreign page administrators are also posing as legitimate veteran organizations to extort veterans and service members. In one case, the VVA found foreign Snapchat and Instagram accounts using VVA's name and logo to lure its supporters into participating in fraudulent fundraising.

While Russia is largely focused on election interference and disinformation, the senators wrote they are concerned about the VVA's findings that the Chinese are targeting troops and intelligence officials to recruit as spies.

"Fake accounts are being utilized by hostile Chinese intelligence services to connect with high-ranking and influential members of the intelligence and defense communities centered in and around Washington, D.C.," according to the VVA report.

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## Pentagon says F-35 falls short in 5 key metrics

Bloomberg

The Pentagon's chief weapons tester said the next-generation F-35 jet continues to fall short of full combat readiness targets and, despite some progress on reliability issues, all three versions of the fighter are breaking down "more often than planned."

None of the Air Force, Marines and Navy variants of the Lockheed Martin fighter are meeting their five key "reliability or maintainability metrics," Robert Behler, the Pentagon's director of operational testing, said in prepared remarks Wednesday before two House Armed Services Committee panels.

The House subcommittees are reviewing the \$428 billion program's status and progress recovering from years of cost overruns and production delays.

"The operational suitability of the F-35 fleet remains at a level below service expectations,"

Behler said in the prepared remarks. "In short, for all variants, aircraft are breaking down more often than planned and taking longer to fix."

His statement is a reality check just weeks after the Pentagon and Lockheed Martin announced that they finalized the largest contract in the program's history, a deal valued at \$34 billion for 478 additional aircraft. About \$27 billion worth of F-35s have already been placed on contract even though the program hasn't completed all its combat testing and struggles with reliability.

The program continues in its most rigorous phase of combat testing, a stage that will stretch into next year. So far, 458 jets have been fielded out of about 3,500 planned purchases by U.S. and allies from Australia to Poland. Pentagon approval for full-rate production, delayed from December, looms for 2020.

Even with that 2020 target ap-

proaching, analysis to date shows that neither the Marine Corps nor Navy F-35 models are currently "on track" to meet their reliability metrics even as they log more hours, according to the latest assessment.

Among the key lagging metrics cited by Behler are "mean flight hours between critical failure" — a data point that refers to the time between failures that result in the loss of capability to perform a mission-critical task, or mean time between part removals for replacement from the supply chain.

Significantly, while the F-35 fleet demonstrated, over short periods, "high mission capability" rates reflecting the percentage of time jets are safe to fly and able to perform at least one specific mission, the jets "lagged" by "a large margin" the more complete measure of "Full Mission Capable" status, he wrote.

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## NATION

# Arctic blast chills northeastern US

Associated Press

An arctic blast that sent shivers across the Midwest spread across the eastern U.S. on Wednesday, with bitter weather establishing new cold-temperature records from Mississippi to Maine.

Temperatures dipped to single digits early Wednesday across parts of the Northeast, and unseasonably cold weather extended to the Gulf Coast. Forecasters projected even lower temperatures late Wednesday and early Thursday in some locations.

The frigid air mass produced midwinter conditions, said Mark Bloomer, a meteorologist with National Weather Service in Caribou, Maine.

Record low temperatures for the date were recorded Tuesday

in New York City; Buffalo, N.Y.; Burlington, Vt.; and parts of Ohio. More daily records were broken Wednesday morning in Burlington, along with several locations in Pennsylvania.

The temperature dropped to 18 degrees in Birmingham, Ala., early Wednesday, breaking the previous low record of 22 degrees, set in 1911. More than 100 other sites in Alabama also reached historic lows.

In Greenville, Miss., the temperature dropped to 17 degrees, breaking a record of 23 degrees set 108 years ago. Even the Gulf Coast saw temperatures below freezing, producing "sea smoke" as chilly air moved over warmer water.



TODD BERKEY, THE (JOHNSTOWN, PA.) TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT/AP

A pedestrian walks through a snow squall in downtown Johnstown, Pa., on Tuesday. Snow and icy conditions are hitting parts of Pennsylvania and the rest of the Northeast.

## Teen with damaged lungs from vaping has double transplant

By DEREK HAWKINS

The Washington Post

Doctors in Michigan said Tuesday they had performed what they believe is the first double lung transplant on a patient whose lungs were damaged from vaping, highlighting the extreme steps medical experts are taking as they confront a nationwide rash of vaping-related illnesses.

The medical team from Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital said the patient, a 17-year-old male, underwent the roughly six-hour transplant surgery on Oct. 15. He spent a month on a life-support machine after suffering "complete lung failure" and would have faced "certain death" without the operation, according to the doctors.

The teen's family described him as an athlete who was in perfect health before he was admitted to the hospital in early September with what appeared to be pneumonia. Within weeks, his condition had become so dire that he shot to the top of a national transplant list, where most patients spend months waiting for a donor.

Surgeons said they were agast when they first examined him.

"What I saw in his lungs was nothing that I've ever seen before, and I've been doing lung transplants for 20 years," Dr. Hassan Nemeih, the hospital's surgical director of thoracic organ transplant, said in a Tuesday news conference.

"There was an enormous amount of inflammation and scarring in addition to multiple spots of dead tissue. And the lung itself was so firm and scarred,



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Dr. Hassan Nemeih shows areas of a patient's lungs at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit on Tuesday. A medical team there performed a double lung transplant for a patient whose lungs were irreparably damaged from vaping.

literally we had to deliver it out of the chest," he said. "This is an evil that I haven't faced before."

"The extraordinary operation underscored the severity of the public health crisis that has unfolded across the country as vaping products have surged in popularity.

Vaping-related illnesses have killed at least 39 people and put more than 2,000 in the hospital since late March when reports of vape users suffering pneumonia-like symptoms began to proliferate, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## US Catholic bishops elect 1st Hispanic leader

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, an immigrant from Mexico, pledged to push for a more welcoming immigration system after winning election Tuesday as the first Hispanic to head the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"I'm humbled by your support,"

said Gomez, whose predominantly Hispanic archdiocese of 4 million Catholics is the largest in the U.S. "I think it is a blessing for the Latino community."

The issue of immigration is personal to Gomez, who has relatives and friends on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. He described the situation at the

border as a "tragedy" and said he witnessed the "suffering of the people there" during visits to south Texas cities last year.

"It's an essential cause," he said of overhauling immigration policy. "Our encouragement to elected officials is to find a good, solid immigration reform that allows people to move legally."

## Court rules against warrantless searches of cellphones, laptops

By STEVE LEBLANC

Associated Press

BOSTON — A federal court in Boston has ruled that warrantless U.S. government searches of the phones and laptops of international travelers at airports and other U.S. ports of entry violate the Fourth Amendment.

Tuesday's ruling in U.S. District Court came in a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Frontier Foundation on behalf of 11 travelers whose smartphones and laptops were searched without individualized suspicion at U.S. ports of entry.

ACLU attorney Esha Bhandari said the ruling strengthens the Fourth Amendment protections of international travelers who enter the United States.

The number of electronic device searches at U.S. ports of entry has increased significantly, the ACLU said. Last year, the government conducted more than 33,000 searches, almost four times the number from just three years prior.

Documents filed as part of the lawsuit claim the scope of the warrantless searches has expanded to assist in enforcement of tax, bankruptcy, environmental and consumer protection laws, gathering intelligence and advancing criminal investigations.

The court documents also said agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement consider requests from other government agencies in determining whether to search travelers' electronic devices. They

### By the numbers

# 40.9K

The number of electronic device searches at U.S. ports of entry during fiscal year 2019, according to Customs and Border Protection statistics.

# 414M

The number of travelers processed at U.S. ports of entry during fiscal year 2019, according to Customs and Border Protection statistics.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

added that agents are searching the electronic devices of not only targeted individuals but their associates, friends and relatives.

Customs and Border Protection said in a statement that while it does not comment on matters in litigation, in fiscal year 2019, the department processed more than 414 million travelers at U.S. ports of entry. During that period, it conducted 40,913 border searches of electronic devices, representing less than .01% of arriving international travelers.

## NATION

# Hackers struggled to spread DNC emails; WikiLeaks helped

By CRAIG TIMBERG  
The Washington Post

The Russian military hackers who stole tens of thousands of sensitive Democratic Party documents in 2016 struggled to disseminate their bounty online—at least until anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks joined the effort, according to a report released Tuesday night.

The report, prepared by analyzing data Facebook provided to the Senate Intelligence Committee, found that the Russian military hackers sought to publicize the documents as early as June 14 that year through a post on Facebook that said, “Check restricted documents leaked from Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign staff” and provided a link to an online trove. But despite the potentially explosive contents, the post on the “DCLeaks” page generated just 11 “likes,” 17 shares and zero comments.

Direct messages to American journalists, made through a fictitious Twitter persona called Guccifer 2.0, generated a spate of news coverage soon after. But that was modest compared with the deluge that came five weeks later, on July 22, when WikiLeaks published the documents and tweeted a link to its 3.2 million followers.

The revelations from the stolen documents, many of which were embarrassing emails showing party officials appearing to favor Clinton over her rival for the presidential nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders, soon spread widely enough to prompt the Democratic chairwoman to resign on the eve of the party’s national convention.

The hacking campaign’s outreach efforts, executed by the Russian military intelligence agency known as the GRU, underscore how marrying stolen documents with sophisticated social media outreach can generate outside results. It also underscored the unwitting role American journalists played in a Russian intelligence operation to interfere in a U.S. election. Tuesday’s report, called “Potemkin Pages & Personas: Assessing GRU Online Operations 2014-2019,” is the latest that disinformation researchers have pro-

duced using data provided to the Senate Intelligence Committee and gives the most complete account yet of the social media operations of the GRU. It was released by the Stanford Internet Observatory, with research manager Renee DiResta as the lead author. DiResta also has worked as part of the Technical Advisory Group for the Senate committee.

The report found that the GRU, in targeting the United States and other countries, set up phony think tanks and news organizations, created fake online personas and pushed racially divisive online messages through Facebook pages it created, including “Baltimore is Everywhere” and “Michael Brown Memorial.” Then-special counsel Robert Mueller III indicted 12 GRU officers last year for their alleged role in seeking to disrupt the U.S. election.

“One thing this report shows is that what happens on social media doesn’t stay isolated to social media,” said Sen. Mark Warner, of Virginia, the top Democrat on the Intelligence Committee. “Platforms like Facebook can also serve as the launching pad for narratives that spread throughout the information ecosystem. These big platforms need to do a better job of making sure they don’t become tools for Russian manipulation of American voters, and responsible actors need to take serious stock of how they interact with, rely on and amplify the information found on those platforms.”

Many researchers who have studied Russia’s efforts to influence the 2016 presidential race have pointed to the publication of the Democratic Party documents as especially effective at disrupting the election, which Republican Donald Trump narrowly won. Such tactics—called “hack and leak” by researchers—are widely used, highly effective and difficult to combat when used in democratic nations that respect press freedoms.

Mueller’s final report, released publicly in April, detailed the relationship between the GRU, operating through the fictitious persona Guccifer 2.0, and WikiLeaks. The anti-secrecy group did not respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

## Stone trial witness says Trump was in the know on WikiLeaks, emails

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON—Roger Stone was the linchpin of a monthslong effort by Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign to discover damaging information on Hillary Clinton to be released by the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks, an effort that began before the hack of Democratic emails was publicly known, Stone’s trial has shown.

Testimony over four days ending Tuesday also revealed engagement by Trump and top aides in making use of Stone’s claims that he knew emails detrimental to Clinton’s campaign would be released.

The trial in federal court turns on accusations that Stone lied to Congress about his attempts to learn more about what WikiLeaks would publish and when it would do so. But some testimony also raises questions about the president’s written assertions under oath that he did not recall being aware of communications between Stone and WikiLeaks or recall any conversations about WikiLeaks between Stone and

members of his campaign.

Rick Gates, who served as Trump’s deputy campaign chairman, testified Tuesday that Stone began discussing Clinton leaks with the campaign in April 2016 and that from May onward, Gates understood Stone to be the campaign’s intermediary with WikiLeaks. By July 2016, Gates testified, Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort said he was updating Trump and others regularly and directed Gates to keep following up with Stone. After Trump ended one phone call from Stone at the end of that month, Gates testified, the future president said to Gates that “more information would be coming.”

The White House declined to comment on Gates’ testimony.

Left open at trial, when Stone is charged with lying to Congress about his own contacts regarding WikiLeaks, is whether Stone succeeded in reaching the group. Stone has pleaded not guilty and has said he was fooled by unreliable characters with whom he worked while he also simultaneously exaggerated his WikiLeaks

connections to the campaign and in public statements.

Witnesses testified that the Trump campaign was languishing in late summer 2016 when Stone, who had been fired the previous year from the campaign but remained an informal adviser to his old friend Trump, began promising a way out.

“I have an idea ... to save Trump’s a-,” he told Manafort in an email in August. “I know how to win this but it ain’t pretty,” he told campaign chief Steve Bannon in another exchange.

Despite what Gates said was skepticism about Stone’s reliability, he testified that he and other top campaign staffers, including Manafort, spokesman Jason Miller and adviser Stephen Miller, held “brainstorming sessions” based on what Stone told them. When WikiLeaks published unflattering emails from Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta in October, a staffer for Bannon emailed Stone to say, “Well done.”

Closing arguments were scheduled for Wednesday afternoon.



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Republican presidential candidate and former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford announced he is ending his longest 2020 presidential bid in Concord, N.H., on Tuesday.

## Sanford drops GOP presidential challenge

By HUNTER WOODALL  
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H.—Mark Sanford dropped his challenge to President Donald Trump for the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday, saying the focus on impeachment has made it difficult for his campaign to gain traction.

“You’ve got to be a realist,” Sanford said outside the New Hampshire statehouse. “What I did not anticipate is an impeachment.”

The former South Carolina governor and congressman announced his decision to suspend his campaign on the eve of televised impeachment hearings in the U.S. House. He centered his campaign on warnings about the national debt but emphasized that the impeachment effort hurt his 2020 bid.

“It was a long shot, but we wanted to try and interject this issue, how much we’re spending, into the national debate which comes along once every four years,” Sanford said. “I don’t think on the Republican side there is any appetite for a nuanced conversation on issues when there’s an impeachment overhead.”

Sanford’s departure from the race is the latest blow to the struggling “Never Trump” movement that has failed to attract a marquee GOP challenge for Trump this cycle. The only major options available for Never Trump Republican primary voters are former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld and former Illinois Rep. Joe Walsh. Sanford did not commit to supporting either of the challengers’ campaigns Tuesday.

“I give him credit for taking a shot, for trying really,” said Bill Kristol, a director of Defending Democracy Together, a 501(c)(4) anti-Trump conservative group. “So few Republicans have had the nerve to step up at all.”

Weld, in a statement, said Sanford’s “voice in the primaries will

be missed.”

In an interview, Walsh said he never understood why Sanford entered the race.

“This isn’t about the debt and this isn’t about tariffs and it’s not about any issue,” Walsh said. “Trump’s unfit. It’s an emergency, and that’s the only reason you get into a primary against a sitting president.”

Sanford, 59, won three terms for U.S. House in the 1990s, then two four-year terms as governor before an extramarital affair marred the end of his second term. But Sanford’s secret 2009 rendezvous to Argentina to visit his paramour while his in-the-dark gubernatorial staff told reporters he was hiking the Appalachian Trail however did not end his ability to win elections.

After a brief hiatus and a divorce, he returned to politics and won a special election to his old U.S. House seat in 2013, holding on twice more before his criticism of Trump led to a 2018 primary loss.

Sanford had carried over about \$1.3 million from his U.S. House days to his presidential primary challenge to Trump, but Sanford’s presidential fundraising had been lackluster without the help of the prominent Republicans who boosted his past campaign efforts.

Impeachment aside, Sanford’s campaign faced other hurdles as a handful of state parties canceled their primaries and other nominating contests, including in Sanford’s home state of South Carolina, ahead of Trump’s re-election effort.

But the noise of impeachment, not an election, is what drove Sanford from the race.

“Again, our campaign may be a casualty of this process, but there’s a much bigger casualty out there,” Sanford said Tuesday. “That’s debate on any subject out there other than impeachment.”



## EUROPE



PHOTOS BY NORMAN LLAMAS/Stars and Stripes

Harlem Globetrotter Bulldog Mack lifts a baby in the crowd as the "Lion King" theme song plays during a game at the Dragon Fitness Center, Aviano Air Base, Italy, on Tuesday.

# Globetrotters bring early holiday cheer

## Team entertains troops, families at Aviano base

BY NORMAN LLAMAS  
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Basketball icons the Harlem Globetrotters brought early holiday cheer to troops and their families at Aviano this week as they played their longtime nemesis, the Washington Generals, signed autographs and posed for pictures at the base's Dragon Fitness Center during their annual holiday tour.

Six-foot-one guard Jet Rivers said playing for service members and their families was "my absolute favorite moment as a Globetrotter."

"I have been to Afghanistan on a tour to visit the troops there," he said. "It was an amazing experience because not all of us get to experience what the military service members go through day-to-day."

Kristy Earls, superintendent of the 31st Medical Group, and her two sons, Cole, 7, and Jackson, 13, helped greet the Globetrotters with thunderous applause. "I love how they interact with the crowd," said Earls.

Guard Darnell "Speedy" Artis, who earned his nickname for his rapid style of play and dexterity on the court, soaked up the excitement from the audience and the children's smiles.

"It reminds me of when I was a little boy going to Globetrotter events with my father," he said.

Being a Globetrotter has allowed Artis to realize two of his childhood dreams, the 5-foot-7 player said. "One was to play basketball professionally and the other was to be able to change the world," he said. "I feel that by being a Globetrotter, I get to do both."

The Globetrotters have entertained more than 148 million fans in 123 countries and territories worldwide since they were founded in 1926, and are credited with popularizing the slam dunk, the fast break and the figure-eight weave.

llamas.norman@stripes.com  
Twitter: @normanllamas



Clockwise from above: Harlem Globetrotter Bulldog Mack sits inside a basketball hoop during Tuesday's game, and Globetrotters TNT Lister and Jet River sign autographs for fans.



## WORLD

# Venice 'on its knees' amid flooding

Associated Press

VENICE, Italy — The worst flooding in Venice in more than 50 years prompted calls Wednesday to better protect the historic city from rising sea levels as officials calculated hundreds of millions of euros in damage.

The water reached 6.14 feet above sea level Tuesday, the second-highest level ever recorded in the city and just 2.75 inches lower than in the historic 1966 flood. Another wave of exceptionally high water followed Wednesday.

"Venice is on its knees," Mayor Luigi Brugnaro said on Twitter. "St. Mark's Basilica has sustained serious damage, like the entire city and its islands."

One death was blamed on the flooding on the barrier island of Pellestrina. A man in his 70s was apparently electrocuted when he tried to start a pump in his dwelling, said Danny Carrella, an official on the island of 3,500 inhabitants.

In Venice, the crypt beneath St. Mark's Basilica was inundated for only the second time in its history as water entered through the windows and past all protections. Damage was also reported at the Ca' Pesaro modern art gallery, where a short circuit set off a fire, and at La Fenice theater, where authorities turned off electricity as a precaution after the control room was flooded.

Tourists floated suitcases through St. Mark's Square, where officials removed walkways to prevent them from floating away. The water was so high that nothing less than thigh-high boots afforded protection. Water poured



LUCA BRUNO/AP

**A greengrocer pulls his cart through high water Wednesday in Venice, Italy, where rising sea levels left much of the city flooded.**

through wooden boards that shop and hotel owners have previously placed in front of doors to hold back water during flooding. Tourists staying on the ground floor of hotels were forced to move to upper floors overnight.

"I have often seen St. Mark's Square covered with water," Venice's patriarch, Monsignor Francesco Moraglia, told reporters. "Yesterday there were waves that seemed to be the seashore."

Brugnaro said damage would reach hundreds of millions of euros, and he called on Rome

to declare a state of emergency. Premier Giuseppe Conte was due to visit the city later Wednesday.

"We are not just talking about calculating the damages, but of the very future of the city" Brugnaro told reporters. "Because the population drain also is a result of this."

The flooding was caused by heavy rains coinciding with a full moon that brought high tides that were pushed into Venice by southerly winds. At the same time, rising sea levels because of climate change make the city built amid

a system of canals even more vulnerable.

Brugnaro blamed climate change for the "dramatic situation" and called for a speedy completion of a long-delayed project to construct offshore barriers. Called "Moses," the moveable undersea barriers are meant to limit flooding. The project, which was opposed by environmentalists concerned about damaging the delicate lagoon ecosystem, has been delayed by cost overruns and corruption scandals, with no launch date in site.

# ISIS' acts, returnees collide for Parisians

By LORI HINNANT

Associated Press

PARIS — France commemorated the fourth anniversary of the Islamic State attacks that struck the heart of Paris with a solemn reading Wednesday of the names of 131 dead amid growing certainty that the group's recruits will return home in increasing numbers.

Three squads made up almost entirely of French and Belgian fighters for ISIS attacked the country's national stadium, the Bataclan concert hall, and bars and restaurants in the city center in the deadliest attack committed by the group in Europe. All but one of the attackers died.

Wednesday's commemorations of the attacks were clouded by the impending return of more European recruits for ISIS — many of them women and their children. Turkey's president has promised to deport foreign supporters of the group, even if their home countries don't want them.

"These gates will open and these [ISIS] members who have started to be sent to you will continue to be sent. Then you can take care of your own problem," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said ahead of a trip to Washington.

Since the 2015 attacks, Turkey has returned around 250 French citizens, including many children born in Iraq and Syria. Turkey also has an agreement with Belgium, reached after a Belgian former ISIS fighter linked to the Paris attackers was deported back to Europe and took part in the attacks that devastated Brussels in February 2016.

Laurent Nunez, a ranking official in France's Interior Ministry, said around 500 people are currently imprisoned on terrorism convictions and that all will be watched closely after they are freed.

But he said the threat remains high for people radicalized at home. "This is the threat we fear most, this homegrown threat that is the most difficult to detect," he said Wednesday.

Turkey deported citizens of the United States, Denmark and Germany on Monday and announced plans to expel seven other German nationals, two Irish nationalists and 11 French nationals. The U.S. national remained in a heavily militarized no man's land between Turkey and Greece for a third straight day. Greek officials have said Turkey tried to expel the man to Greece, which refused him entry.

France has reluctantly accepted its own returning citizens. Four women are on the verge of being deported from Turkey with their seven children.

# Israel vows to keep hitting militants in Gaza response

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli airstrikes killed more Islamic Jihad militants in Gaza on Wednesday as rocket fire toward Israel resumed after a brief overnight lull, raising the death toll in the strip to 18 Palestinians in the heaviest round of fighting in months.

The military said more than 250 rockets have been fired at Israeli communities since the violence erupted following an Israeli airstrike that killed a senior Islamic Jihad commander accused of being the mastermind of recent attacks. Israel stepped up its battle against Iran and its proxies across the region.

The latest fighting brought life in much of Israel to a standstill. Schools remained closed in Israeli communities near the Gaza border and restrictions on public gatherings continued as rockets rained down.

Those attacks came after the early morning strike on Tuesday killed Behaa Abu el-Atta and his wife as they were sleeping. Rock-

et fire from Gaza reached as far north as Tel Aviv, and two people were wounded by shrapnel.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a special Cabinet meeting that Israel has no interest in sparking a wider confrontation but warned the Iran-backed Islamic Jihad that Israel will keep pounding them until the rockets stop.

"They know we will continue to strike them without mercy," Netanyahu said. "They have one choice: either stop these attacks or absorb more and more blows."

Gaza's Hamas rulers have yet to enter the fray — a possible sign the current round of violence could be brief. With Gaza's economy in tatters, they appear to have little desire for more fighting with Israel.

U.N. Middle East envoy Nickolay Mladenov arrived in Cairo from Tel Aviv on Wednesday in efforts to deescalate the latest Israel-Gaza violence. He was to meet President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, Egyptian officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity under regulations.

# Bolivia's declared interim president faces challenges

Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia — Bolivia's newly declared interim president, until now a second-tier lawmaker, faces the challenge of winning recognition, stabilizing the nation and organizing elections within three months at a time of bloody political disputes that pushed the nation's first indigenous leader to fly off to self-exile in Mexico after 14 years in power.

Some people took to the streets cheering and waving national flags Tuesday night when Jeanine Anez, who had been second vice president of the Senate, claimed the presidency after higher ranking successors to the post had resigned. Furious supporters of the ousted Evo Morales responded by trying to force their way to the Congress building in La Paz, yelling, "She must quit!"

The constitution gives an interim president 90 days to organize an election, and Anez's still-disputed accession was an example of the problems she'll face.

Morales' backers, who hold a two-thirds majority in Congress,

boycotted the session she had called to formalize her accession, preventing a quorum.

Frustrated in that effort, she took power in any case, with no one to swear her in, saying the constitution did not specifically require congressional approval.

Bolivia's top constitutional court issued a statement late Tuesday laying out the legal justification for Anez taking the presidency — without mentioning her by name. But other legal experts challenged the legal technicalities that led to her claiming the presidency from such a relatively low-ranking post, saying at least some of the steps required Congress to meet.

The lingering question could affect her ability to govern.

"It doesn't seem likely" that Morales' party "will accept her as president. So the question of what happens next remains — still quite unclear and extremely worrying," said Jennifer Cyr, an associate professor of political science and Latin American studies at the University of Arizona.

## WORLD

# N. Korea issues warning over U.S.-S. Korean drills

By KIM TONG-HYUNG  
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's supreme decision-making body lashed out Wednesday at planned U.S.-South Korean military drills and warned that the United States will face a "bigger threat and harsh suffering" if it ignores North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's end-of-year deadline to salvage nuclear talks.

In a statement carried by state media, an unidentified spokesperson for the North's State Affairs Commission said the drills would violate agreements between Kim and President Donald Trump on improving bilateral relations and compel North Korea to raise its war readiness.

Kim is chairman of the commission, which he established in 2016 following years of efforts to consolidate his power and centralize governance.

The statement is North Korea's latest expression of displeasure over the military drills and slow pace of nuclear negotiations with Washington. The talks have stalled over disagreements on disarmament steps and sanctions relief.

North Korea has also ramped up its missile tests in recent months, and experts say it is likely to continue weapons displays to pressure Washington as Kim's deadline nears for the Trump administration to offer mutually acceptable terms for a deal.

The spokesperson said annual U.S.-South Korean military drills are continuing to cause a "vicious cycle" in relations between the U.S. and North Korea.

"The United States must show self-restraint and

refrain from careless actions at a sensitive time when the joint exercises can send the political situation of the Korean Peninsula back to square one," the statement said.

"If the current flow in the political situation doesn't change, the United States will soon face a bigger threat and harsh suffering that will force them to acknowledge their mistake."

Last week, senior North Korean diplomat Kwon Jong Gun said a joint aerial exercise planned by the U.S. and South Korea in coming weeks amounted to "throwing a wet blanket over the spark" of nuclear negotiations that are "on the verge of extinction." Kwon said North Korea's patience was nearing its limit and that it will "never remain an onlooker" to "reckless military moves."

Since the start of the nuclear talks last year, the United States and South Korea have canceled or scaled back their regular military drills to create space for diplomacy. North Korea says the smaller drills are still a rehearsal for an invasion and has reacted strongly to the exercises during stalemates in the negotiations.

The talks have faltered since the collapse of a February summit between Trump and Kim in Vietnam, where the Americans rejected North Korea's demands for broad sanctions relief in exchange for the partial surrendering of its nuclear capabilities.

North Korea responded with intensified testing activity, and Kim said he would "wait with patience until the end of the year for the United States to come up with a courageous decision." Kim has also said that North Korea would seek a "new way" if the United States persists with sanctions and pressure.

## Japanese spacecraft starts trip home

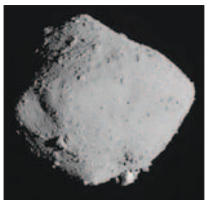
By MARI YAMAGUCHI  
Associated Press

TOKYO — A Japanese spacecraft left a distant asteroid on Wednesday, starting its yearlong journey home after successfully completing its mission to gather soil samples and data that could provide clues to the origins of the solar system, the country's space agency said.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said the Hayabusa2 spacecraft left its orbit around the asteroid Ryugu, about 180 million miles from Earth.

Hayabusa2 staff at the command center stood up and cheered when JAXA project manager Yuichi Tsuda confirmed the departure.

The spacecraft captured and transmitted to Earth some of its final images of Ryugu, or "Dragon Palace," named after a seabottom castle in a Japanese folk tale, as it slowly began moving away, JAXA said. Hayabusa2 will continue its "farewell filming" of the asteroid for a few more days.



JAXA/AP

**Japan's Hayabusa2 spacecraft took this image of asteroid Ryugu. The spacecraft has started its yearlong journey home**

Hayabusa2 will adjust its position about Nov. 18 after retreating 40 miles from the asteroid and out of its gravitational pull. After that, Ryugu will be out of its sight.

"It's sad to say goodbye to Ryugu," Tsuda said at a briefing Tuesday. "Literally, it has been at the center of our lives over the

past 1½ years."

The spacecraft will then ignite its main thrusters in early December to propel it back to Earth.

"We expect Hayabusa2 will bring us new scientific insights," Tsuda said. "Not only the data, but tangible samples will be in our hands."

Hayabusa2 is expected to reach Earth in late 2020 and drop a capsule containing the samples in the Australian desert.

The spacecraft will only drop the capsule and then return to space for another possible mission.

It took the spacecraft 3½ years to arrive at the asteroid, but the journey home is much shorter thanks to the current locations of Ryugu and Earth.

JAXA scientists believe the underground samples contain valuable data unaffected by space radiation and other environmental factors that could tell more about the origin of the solar system 4.6 billion years ago.



KIN CHEUNG/AP

**A student pushes his luggage past pro-democracy protesters as he leaves the Chinese University of Hong Kong following a clash in Hong Kong on Wednesday. University students from mainland China are fleeing Hong Kong as attacks and clashes turn increasingly violent.**

## Chinese students flee Hong Kong as protest violence intensifies

By KEN MORITSUGU  
AND PATRICK QUINN  
Associated Press

HONG KONG — University students from mainland China are fleeing Hong Kong, and classes in primary and secondary schools have been suspended as clashes turn increasingly violent in the city's five-month-long anti-government unrest.

Marine police used a boat Wednesday to help a group of mainland students leave the Chinese University of Hong Kong, which remained barricaded by demonstrators after violent clashes with police on Tuesday.

The Technical University of Denmark urged 36 students in Hong Kong to return home, saying "some of our students have been forced to move from their dormitories because they were put on fire."

The protests have taken on a strong anti-China bent, with radical demonstrators trashing branches of mainland banks, China's official Xinhua News Agency and restaurant chains whose owners support the Beijing government.

Hong Kong is part of China but has its own legal system and greater freedoms than on the mainland. The protesters say those freedoms are under threat

from a city government that is beholden to Beijing. China says the protesters are rioters who want to break away from Chinese rule.

For the third day in a row, protesters caused major train service disruptions, blocked streets and rallied in the central business district. They hunkered down for expected clashes with police at university campuses.

Mainland students have said in online posts that they are being targeted by protesters who have broken into their dormitories, spray-painted insults on walls and banged on their doors, the Beijing Evening News reported.

Many are taking advantage of a program that offers a week of free accommodation in one of a dozen hotels and hostels in the neighboring mainland city of Shenzhen, Chinese media reported.

The "Grads Home" service was established in 2013 to provide short-term accommodations for recent graduates looking for jobs in the tech hub.

Recent weeks have been marked by escalating vandalism of train stations and shops, and assaults by both protesters and pro-Beijing supporters.

Police have arrested more than 3,500 people since the movement began in June over a now-withdrawn extradition bill.

## Germany's Cabinet approves bill to criminalize 'upskirting' photos

Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's Cabinet has approved legislation that will criminalize "upskirting" photos and taking unauthorized pictures

of people killed in accidents.

The bill introduced Wednesday, which requires parliamentary approval, will make it a criminal rather than civil offense to take and distribute such pictures.

The German move follows the approval this year of legislation making it illegal in England and Wales to take "upskirting" photos.

It also will ban the taking or

distribution of unauthorized pictures "that display a dead person in a grossly offensive way," with punishment of up to two years in prison.

Justice Minister Christine

Lambrecht said that "we must spare relatives the additional suffering of pictures of their deceased parents or children being spread around."



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police: \$140K in items stolen from mansion

**NY** NEW YORK — Police said a group of burglars stole \$140,000 worth of luggage and jewelry from a shopping mall magnate's New York City mansion.

The Bronx home belongs to Don Ghermezian, the CEO of the company that runs Mall of America in Minnesota and the new American Dream complex in New Jersey.

The New York Police Department said a group of unidentified people broke into the house in the affluent Riverdale neighborhood through a rear window on a balcony.

Police released security camera footage showing four people were involved. The suspects fled the scene.

## 2 men running for vet suicide awareness

**MA** BOURNE — Two Massachusetts men embarked on a 500-mile run to raise awareness about veteran suicide.

Josh Milich and Brian Tjersland left Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne on Monday and will run to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Milich, who serves in the Coast Guard, and Tjersland are avid runners who have finished 100-mile races.

The men are aiming to raise \$100,000 for Mission 22, a non-profit organization that treats veterans who have post-traumatic stress disorder.

The pair hope to complete the journey in 11 days and run an average of 50 miles per day. They will stop only to eat and sleep until they get to their destination.

## Deer jumps through medical center window

**TN** KNOXVILLE — Hospital officials said a deer crashed through a window of a Tennessee medical center, alarming patients in the waiting room.

WATE-TV reported that three patients at Tennesse's Medical Center had to be treated for minor injuries after the deer unexpectedly jumped through the lobby window.

The six-point buck left through the same window and was then struck and killed by a vehicle.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency said white-tailed deer are in breeding season, which can cause them to cross into urban areas.

## Christmas trees headed to troops overseas

**OH** COLUMBUS — Tree farmers in Ohio are joining forces with the state to send a little holiday cheer to the troops overseas.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Christmas Tree Association are partnering on an effort that will ship more than 100 Christmas trees to service members stationed



ELIAS FUNEX, THE (GRASS VALLEY, CALIF.) UNION/AP

## Holiday food baggers

Food Bank of Nevada County volunteers Mike Cartan, center, and Mike Napolitano, stack stocked holiday food bags onto pallets Tuesday at the Food Bank of Nevada County's property in Grass Valley, Calif. About 40 volunteers came together to help organize, sort and prepare the more than 650 food bags for their annual holiday distribution set for Thursday.

overseas.

Growers will donate the trees and state inspectors will make sure they are free of pests and disease. Both groups will work with volunteers to wrap, load and ship the trees at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Columbus.

Each shipment will also include decorations provided by schoolchildren, churches and veterans' groups.

## Police: Man burglarized homes, sold scrap metal

**KY** LOUISVILLE — Police in Kentucky arrested a man they say broke into 17 homes within a few miles of each other, stealing metal and parts to sell at local scrap yards.

News outlets reported David Lee Thurman, 48, pleaded not guilty during an arraignment in Louisville on 17 counts of second-degree burglary.

In court documents obtained by news outlets, Louisville police said Thurman admitted to investigators he entered multiple homes to steal copper, wiring and air-conditioning units then sell the items to Jefferson County scrap yards for cash.

## Homeless man stabbed trying to stop robbery

**CA** LA HABRA — Police said a homeless man

## THE CENSUS

# \$230

The amount a gourmet grocery store on Virginia's Eastern Shore is charging for a bottle of beer. The Daily Times of Salisbury, Md., reported that Poseidon's Pantry in Chincoteague is selling a rare and much-coveted beer that's made by Sam Adams.

The barrel-aged beer is called Utopias 2019. The custom-made bottle holds 25.4 ounces. The alcohol content is 28 percent, which is too much to be sold in 15 states. Sam Adams recommends drinking an ounce of the beer at a time.

was stabbed when he tried to stop a robbery at a suburban Southern California doughnut shop.

The La Habra Police Department said officers responding to a robbery call found a stabbing victim in his 40s.

Police said the man had stepped in to help the owner of the Donuts & Deli Shop when he saw him struggling with two people making off with items from the store.

The man, whose name was not released, was hospitalized in stable condition.

Officers, following the store owner's description, arrested two people a short time later.

## Club drops suit against waiter over ruined purse

**NJ** DEMAREST — A New Jersey country club no longer intends to sue a waiter accused of spilling wine and ruining a woman's handbag that she claims is worth \$30,000.

In court documents, the Alpine

Country Club's attorney dropped its cross-claim against the waiter. Kenneth Merber also questioned the authenticity and value of the bag.

Maryana Beyder said in a lawsuit filed Oct. 29 that she was dining at the country club in Demarest in September 2018 when a waiter spilled red wine on her rare Hermes handbag, ruining it.

Beyder's attorney, Alexandra Erico, told NorthJersey.com there are two reports verifying the bag is real and the country club is "acting in bad faith." She said she plans to file a defamation and libel lawsuit.

## Post office won't deliver to new building

**PA** STATE COLLEGE — A dispute between the U.S. Postal Service and the owners of a new apartment building has left more than 100 residents without mail delivery.

The post office won't deliver

mail to individual residents of the Bellaire in State College because it considers the privately owned building to be a residence hall for Penn State students. The post office said the building owner is responsible for final delivery of student mail.

David Jones, project manager for the building's developers, said the post office had previously approved the building's mailboxes for delivery.

The building, which opened in August, houses students and non-students alike.

Residents now have to go to the post office to retrieve their mail.

## 1 airlifted to hospital after alligator attack

**FL** WEST PALM BEACH — A person was airlifted to a hospital after an alligator attack near a wildlife reserve near Palm Beach County.

According to 12 News, Martin County Fire Rescue found the person in DuPuis Management Area, a reserve bridging southwestern Martin County and northwestern Palm Beach County.

At first, rescuers hadn't been able to locate the person after the initial call of an alligator attack came in.

The person was taken to a hospital for treatment.

From wire reports

## FACES

# People names Legend 2019 Sexiest Man Alive

By JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.  
Associated Press

**R**&B crooner John Legend has been named the Sexiest Man Alive by People magazine.

The Grammy Award-winning singer known for his silky-smooth vocals was revealed as this year's winner Tuesday night on NBC's "The Voice." He serves as a coach on the singing competition series with Gwen Stefani, Kelly Clarkson and Blake Shelton. Shelton, who was named Sexiest Man Alive in 2017, announced Legend's honor on "The Voice." The country singer then handed Legend some short shorts with bedazzled letters "EGOTSMMA" to signify the singer's many honors: an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony and now, Sexiest Man Alive.

Legend tells the magazine in an issue out Friday the honor comes with some pressure after following Idris Elba, who was last year's winner. He jokes it "is not fair and is not nice to me!"

Legend, 40, is a 10-time Grammy winner. He scored an Oscar in 2015 for co-writing the song "Glory" from the film "Selma." He won a Tony Award for his co-producer work on "Jitney" and took home an Emmy

as a producer on NBC's live version of "Jesus Christ Superstar," a project in which he also played the role of Jesus.

Legend has two children with model-television host-cookbook author Chrissy Teigen.

Other recent winners include Dwayne Johnson (2016), Chris Hemsworth (2014), Adam Levine (2013), Channing Tatum (2012) and David Beckham (2015).

"I want to thank Blake Shelton," Legend said. "I observed every move he made, every utterance that came from his mouth, and I think some of it rubbed off on me."

Legend said his wife is proud of him.

"I've finally impressed her," he said.

The couple's children? Not so much. Teigen posted a video of the reveal of their daughter asking to turn off "The Voice" and go back to a movie. Teigen titled the post "The kids ... do not care."

JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP



AL WAGNER, INVISION/AP

Dwight Yoakam received the President's Award from performing rights organization BMI on Tuesday.

## BMI honors Yoakam, country songwriters

Associated Press

Country music singer-songwriter and actor Dwight Yoakam was honored by performing rights organization BMI for his trailblazing and highly unique style of California country rock.

The organization gave the Grammy Award-winner the President's Award on Tuesday while also honoring many of country's top songwriters and artists during a ceremony in Nashville.

Born in Kentucky, Yoakam bypassed the Nashville scene and moved to California, where the Bakersfield style of country music became one of his big influences. He's had hits with "A Thousand Miles From Nowhere" and "Fast As You," and several platinum-selling albums.

Country singers Jon Pardi, Margo Price and the group The Highwomen with Jason Isbell performed some of Yoakam's songs during the ceremony.

Other top country songwriters also were honored, including Nicole Galyon and Ross Copperman. Galyon became the first female songwriter to win BMI's country songwriter of the year since Taylor Swift in 2010.

Galyon co-wrote Lee Brice's "Boy." Keith Urban's "Coming Home," Lady Antebellum's "Heartbreak" and Dan + Shay's "Tequila." Copperman co-wrote Kenny Chesney's "Get Along," Blake Shelton's "I Lived It," Justin Moore's "Kinda Don't Care" and Dierks Bentley's "Woman, Amen."

## 'Jeopardy!' contestant moves Trebek with message during final response

Associated Press

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek got choked up when he read the final response from a Brown University student who wanted to show support as he battles pancreatic cancer.

The emotional moment came in Monday's episode when Trebek read Dhruv Gaur's final answer.

Instead of writing a correct response, Gaur wrote "We love you, Alex!" He substituted a heart in place of the word love.

Trebek's voice cracked as he thanked Gaur, telling him, "That's very kind."

Gaur was eliminated in the semifinals of the Tournament of Champions. He tweeted that Trebek had just "shared with us that he was reentering treatment" and "we were all hurting for him so badly."

Trebek announced in September he had resumed chemotherapy.

The Final Jeopardy clue sought the title of a groundbreaking 1890 expose of poverty in New York City slums.

### De Niro chosen as SAG life achievement honoree

Robert De Niro will receive the Screen Actors Guild's life achievement award.

The guild announced that De Niro will be the 56th recipient of its highest honor at its SAG Awards on Jan. 19.

SAG cited De Niro's extraordinary accomplishments in film and television, including two Academy Awards, a Presidential Medal of Freedom and numerous other honors. It also noted his co-founding and championing of New York City's Tribeca Film Festival.

De Niro's latest film is "The Irishman," which is playing in theaters in limited release before arriving on Netflix at the end of the month.

The actor says in a statement that he's honored to receive the award from a union that he's been a part of for more than 50 years.

### Kristofferson surprises with bar performance

Kris Kristofferson surprised customers when he performed with an acoustic guitar at a North Dakota bar after a band taped a request to the singer-songwriter's tour bus.

Kristofferson stopped at Dempsey's Public House in downtown Fargo on Saturday night and asked to sing with the band 32 Below.

KFGO-AM reported the band had taped a note to Kristofferson's tour bus door. The note said the band was "huge fans" and "would be absolutely stoked" if Kristofferson came to the bar and allowed them to buy him "a beer or five."

Dempsey's General Manager Jeff Fonder said Kristofferson performed "Me and Bobby McGee."

32 Below later said on Facebook: "We played a legendary song with the legend who wrote it!"

Kristofferson was in town to perform at the Fargo Theatre.



Alex Trebek



Robert De Niro



Kris Kristofferson

# Stripes

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

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Ernie Gates

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## OPINION

## As Trump played politics, Ukrainians died

By DAVID IGNATIUS  
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — The House opens public impeachment hearings into the Ukraine scandal, the bottom-line question is dead simple: Did President Donald Trump, for political reasons, manipulate military aid to an ally in a war that has cost 13,000 lives?

When you think about the Ukrainian soldiers in the front lines of this nasty proxy battle against Russia, the debate becomes more visceral and perhaps less confusing. As Ukrainians were struggling with nearly daily shellfire, Trump appeared to treat military aid appropriated by Congress as a personal political tool.

What's outrageous about the Ukraine story isn't that it's a unique example of Trump's fecklessness in foreign policy, but that it's so typical. In dealing with Ukraine, Trump has behaved the same erratic, unreliable way he has with the Syrian Kurds, or the South Koreans, or NATO partners in Europe.

Trump's Ukrainian machinations have yielded something like what we've seen in these other theaters: the diminution of American power and a corresponding increase in Russia's military and diplomatic leverage.

Even Republican senators seemed to understand that when Trump abandoned the Syrian Kurds to attack from Turkey, he opened a power vacuum that was filled by Russia. The U.S. has slowed this capitulation by keeping about 600 troops in northern Syria. But Russia still has the leverage.

Russian diplomatic gains have also been evident in Ukraine. While Trump's law-

yer Rudy Giuliani was flitting around the country disparaging American diplomats, Moscow was seeking a deal to stabilize Ukraine on favorable terms. The Russians are now discussing an agreement with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy — the man Trump importuned in his infamous July 25 phone call for a "favor" in investigating his political rivals in return for military help.

Let's widen our Washington lens to look at the conflict zone in Ukraine. There's a nominal cease-fire there, but until recently it has been shaky at best. According to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, between July and September (while the Washington antics were happening), there were 50,259 cease-fire violations, with 244 explosions attributable to artillery, mortars or other heavy weapons. That was better than in the three previous months but still a nerve-racking situation for civilians and fighters on the ground.

Zelenskyy had been elected in April as a peace candidate. He was eager to maintain American military assistance partly to bargain more effectively with the Kremlin.

As Zelenskyy has pursued negotiations, he has faced attacks in Kyiv from critics who thought he was capitulating to Russia. That's another reason, as acting Ambassador William Taylor told one of his colleagues last summer, that it was "crazy" for Trump to play games with security assistance.

Catherine Croft, a State Department special adviser for Ukraine, explained in House testimony released this week the danger for Zelenskyy if it became known Trump had suspended aid. "It would be seen as a reversal of our policy and would ... be a really big deal in Ukraine, and an

expression of declining U.S. support for Ukraine."

The U.S. was an important "backup" for Ukraine, said Olga Olikier, who directs European programs for the International Crisis Group. "Losing that support puts Kyiv in a weaker bargaining position." She told me that when she visited the Zolote crossing point between government and rebel lines in April, artillery shells whizzed overhead.

Zelenskyy has pressed ahead with his peace efforts, and Ukrainian and Russia-backed forces have now disengaged at Zolote and two other crossing points. And Zelenskyy announced Oct. 1 that he had agreed to Russian calls to implement a formula proposed in 2016 by then-German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier that, in Zelenskyy's version, would provide withdrawal of Russian proxy forces followed by elections in the separatist areas of the east.

How is the United States shaping events as Ukraine is rebalanced? America isn't really a player. Trump said in September while meeting Zelenskyy in New York, "I really hope that you and President Putin get together and can solve your problem."

Meanwhile, a low-level conflict continues.

Here are some details from recent OSCE cease-fire monitoring reports: On Oct. 5, a man and a woman died after a grenade exploded in their apartment in Kurakhove; on Oct. 24, a man was injured by shrapnel near Luhansk; on Nov. 1, a man was injured by shelling in Spartak.

As you watch the Ukraine hearings, remember this basic fact: While Trump was playing politics on Ukraine, people who depended on U.S. military aid were getting killed and wounded.

## Social Security isn't doomed for younger generations

By TYLER COWEN  
Bloomberg News

I have good news for younger generations worried that they won't be able to claim their Social Security benefits because we older generations have ripped them and will be leaving nothing behind: Your fears are unfounded.

Don't just take my word for it. Consider the work of my colleague Charles Blahous at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, who is a relative pessimist (some would say an alarmist) on this issue. His reputation commends his work as a good benchmark for where Social Security really stands.

According to his estimates, if no further steps are taken to shore up the finances of Social Security, the system will stop being able to meet its scheduled payment obligations sometime in the 2030s. (Note that benefit increases are part of the schedule.) That would be bad, but even under this scenario the system is still paying out a roughly constant level of inflation-adjusted benefits over time, at least as those benefits are defined as a percentage of workers' taxable earnings (about 13%). Of course, to the extent those taxable earnings rise, the benefits will be rising too, even if not at a spectacular pace.

Keep in mind that this is the worst-case scenario offered by a relative pessimist.

Another way to describe the problem is that, over the next 75 years, about 17% of scheduled benefits are currently unfunded. Blahous estimates that the U.S. could cover that gap if the Social Security payroll tax were raised from 12.4% to

15.5%.

Now, you might have strong views about the wisdom of that kind of tax increase, but you should acknowledge that this is a very different reality than a bankrupt system. With Social Security on full cruise control, and with no forward-looking reforms, today's younger earners still are slated to receive more than their parents did — just not very much more.

Dean Baker, an economist to the left of Blahous, also has studied Social Security. He estimates that retirees 30 to 40 years from now will receive monthly checks that are about 10% higher in real terms than today's benefits. And keep in mind those are estimates per year. To the extent life expectancy rises, total benefits received will be higher yet.

To be clear, it may well be a bad thing when the Social Security trust fund is depleted and Social Security is financed fully from current government revenues. That could destroy the perception of Social Security as a system where contributions are related to final payments.

But the real damage there is that the U.S. Treasury would be raided for ever-larger benefit increases for the elderly, unconnected to people's earlier taxable wages and contributions. This would be a bad outcome, but it is pretty much the opposite of the fear that benefits will disappear.

A few other considerations also may favor the elderly of the future. First, if baby boomers are a generation that has accumulated an unprecedented degree of wealth, and they are, then they are also likely to be a generation that leaves an unprecedented series of significant bequests,

including charitable bequests.

Second, the U.S. population will be much older by 2035, and so more services and innovations will be geared toward older Americans. As current millennials and Gen Xers become seniors, they too will benefit. They will be the first generations ever to step into a world "built for the elderly."

Third, imagine a future where those older millennials are the largest bloc of active voters. If they face a significant fiscal shortfall, they will have the option of letting in more high-skilled immigrants to work, pay taxes and help cover the deficit. Boomer voters won't be around to stop this change in policy.

Finally, the variability of inflation across sectors probably favors the elderly over the young. There will be plenty of affordable real estate in the Sun Belt, and many of the elderly won't need to live near jobs. The internet will be better than ever, and Skype calls to the grandkids and old friends are likely to be higher in quality. Drone delivery and self-driving vehicles might make life much easier for the relatively immobile, and biomedical technology is showing real promise.

I'm not saying everything will be fine in the future. The U.S. is vastly underperforming relative to its potential. But the claim that post-boomer generations will be left holding the bag, through a bankrupt Social Security system, just doesn't add up.

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include "Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero."

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

# McDonald's hit with sexual harassment suit



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

**Former McDonald's employee Jenna Ries has filed a class-action lawsuit against the company and one of its Michigan franchisees alleging sexual harassment.**

By DEE-ANN DURBIN  
Associated Press

A former McDonald's employee eke a class-action lawsuit against the fast-food chain. She's one of at least 50 workers who have filed separate sexual harassment charges against McDonald's with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or in state courts over the past three years.

The lawsuit comes on the heels of McDonald's firing its CEO last week for having a consensual relationship with an employee. The American Civil Liberties Union and the labor group Fight for \$15 are among those backing the plaintiffs. The Time's Up Legal Defense Fund, which was founded in response to the #MeToo movement, is also providing legal support.

Ries is seeking at least \$5 million in damages for herself and other affected workers.

Sharyn Tejani, the director of the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund, said low-wage fast-food workers can lose shifts or even be fired if they report harassment to a manager. Former CEO Steve Easterbrook, on the other hand, is still eligible for millions of dollars in salary, incentive payments and stock options. McDonald's said Easterbrook violated company policy forbidding managers from having romantic relationships with subordinates.

Ries, 32, said the problems in the Mason, Mich., restaurant began soon after she started working there in the fall of 2017 and continued for more than a year. She alleges the general manager ignored her co-worker's repeated harassment of her and her colleagues, including grop-

ing, physical assault and verbal epithets.

Ries said she cried on the way to work and felt physically ill, but she needed the job to pay her bills. Eventually, she was transferred to another location, but the co-worker who allegedly harassed her remained at the original location.

"It's definitely difficult for me to come forward, but I want to encourage other people," Ries said. "I want McDonald's to recognize that they have a problem and make sure this doesn't happen to others."

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 14)	\$1.1298
Dollar buys (Nov. 14)	€0.8851
British pound (Nov. 14)	\$1.32
Japanese yen (Nov. 14)	107.00
South Korean won (Nov. 14)	1,139.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dh)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2858
Canada (dollar)	1.3248
China (Yuan)	7.0233
Denmark (Krone)	6.7856
Egypt (Pound)	16.1431
Euro	\$1.1012/€0.9081
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.8328
Hungary (Forint)	104.09
Israel (Shekel)	3.4936
Japan (Yen)	108.77
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3038
Norway (Krone)	9.2078
Philippines (Peso)	50.93
Poland (Zloty)	3.89
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7503
Singapore (dollar)	1.3630
South Korea (Won)	1,170.82
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9901
Thailand (Baht)	30.24
Turkey (Lira)	5.7536
Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), which carry your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	55
3-month bill	1.57
30-year bond	2.38

# Milk producer seeks bankruptcy as consumption drops

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN  
AND DEE-ANN DURBIN  
Associated Press

Got milk? Increasingly, Americans don't, and that led the nation's biggest milk producer to file for bankruptcy Tuesday.

Dean Foods blamed a decades-long drop in milk consumption that has seen people turn to alternatives like soda, juice and almond milk.

The Dallas company said it may sell itself to the Dairy Farmers of America, a marketing co-operative owned by thousands of farmers.

"Despite our best efforts to make our business more agile

and cost-efficient, we continue to be impacted by a challenging operating environment marked by continuing declines in consumer milk consumption," CEO Eric Berigause said in a statement.

Since 1975, the amount of liquid milk consumed per capita in the U.S. has tumbled more than 40%. Americans drank around 24 gallons a year in 1996, according to government data. That dropped to 17 gallons in 2018.

An increasing variety of beverages, including teas and sodas, has hurt milk consumption. So have protein bars, yogurts and other on-the-go breakfasts, which take the place of a morning bowl of cereal.

More recently, health and animal-welfare concerns have also contributed as more shoppers seek out nondairy alternatives.

Oat milk, for example, saw U.S. sales rise 636% to more than \$52 million over the past year, according to Nielsen data. Sales of cow's milk dropped 2.4% in that same time frame.

Not all dairy products have been affected. U.S. butter and cheese consumption is up since 1996, for example.

"We're eating our dairy, not drinking it," said Mark Stephenson, director of dairy policy analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The downturn has had an out-

sized effect on Dean Foods, which derived 67% of its sales from fluid milk last year, according to its annual report.

## MARKET WATCH

Nov. 12, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	0.00
	27,691.49
Nasdaq composite	21.81
	8,486.09
Standard & Poor's 500	4.83
	3,091.84
Russell 2000	0.35
	1,595.12

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals S



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## NBA

## Roundup

# Lakers pushes Bulls past Suns

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Kyle Kuzma was out on the floor in the crucial final minutes on Tuesday night when his teammates made the extra pass and found him at the three-point line. Both times, he never hesitated to take the shots that splashed through the net and pushed the Lakers to a 123-115 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Nobody looked happier than Anthony Davis and LeBron James. They'll take all the help they can get.

"Welcome back," Davis said they told Kuzma.

Davis had 24 points and 12 rebounds and Kuzma added a season-high 23 points on 9-for-16 shooting to push the Lakers (8-2) to their best 10-game start since coming from a home loss to Toronto on Sunday.

James added 19 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds.

Phoenix (6-4) trailed for a big chunk of the fourth quarter but pushed ahead 113-111 on Devin Booker's fastbreak layup with 3:29 left. The Lakers responded with three straight three-pointers — one from James and two more from Kuzma — to lead 120-113 and put the game out of reach.

Kuzma missed the first four games of the season this year because of an ankle injury he suffered during the summer while playing for USA basketball.

"I've just got teammates who believe in me," Kuzma said. "We all believe in each other. We're a team and we pick each other up."

**Hawks 125, Nuggets 121:** Trae Young scored 15 of his season-high 42 points in the fourth quarter and added 11 assists to lead visiting Atlanta past Denver.

Young was 13-for-21 from the field and finished 8-for-13 on three-pointers.

**Pacers 111, Thunder 85:** T.J. Warren scored 21 of his 23 points in the third quarter to lead host Indiana past Oklahoma City.

Malcolm Brogdon had 20 points, six rebounds and five assists, and Domantas Sabonis had 18 points and 16 rebounds for the surging Pacers, who have won seven of eight games since the All-Star break.

**76ers 98, Cavaliers 97:** Joel Embiid scored 27 points, including the go-ahead dunk with 13.2 seconds remaining, to lift host Philadelphia over Cleveland.

Josh Richardson added 17 points for Philadelphia, which won despite missing 30 of 38 three-point attempts.

**Heat 117, Pistons 108:** Jimmy Butler scored 11 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, added 13 assists and host Miami wasted most of what was a 29-



**The Bulls' Coby White shoots a three-pointer on Tuesday against the Knicks in Chicago. White made a franchise-record seven three-pointers in the fourth quarter. The Bulls won 120-102.**

point lead before hanging on to beat short-handed Detroit.

Kendrick Nunn also had 20 points for Miami, while Bam Adebayo scored 18 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Heat. Goran Dragic also had 18 points.

Miami is 7-3, matching the third-best 10-game start in Heat history.

**Bulls 120, Knicks 102:** Coby White made a franchise-record seven three-pointers in the fourth quarter, and host Chicago pulled away from slumping New York.

White missed his first five shots from the field and began the final period with just four points. But the rookie guard put on a dazzling show down the stretch.

White finished with 27 points. Zach LaVine had 25 for Chicago, and Wendell Carter Jr. finished with 17 points and 12 rebounds.

New York lost for the sixth time in seven games.

**Kings 119, Nets 114:** Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points, Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 15 rebounds, and host Utah beat Brooklyn.

Utah went ahead for good after Gobert scored on back-to-back possessions in the final 90 seconds.

Kyrie Irving led the Nets with 27 points on 10-for-30 shooting.

**Kings 107, Trail Blazers 99:** Bogdan Bogdanovic had 25 points and 10 assists, Norman Piatelli added 19 points and 12 rebounds and host Sacramento won its first game since losing leading scorer De'Aaron Fox to an ankle injury, beating slumping Portland.

Bjelica helped make up for the loss of Fox. He made eight of his 14 shots and set a season-high for rebounds in his first double-double of the season.

## Scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	1	889	3	—
Philadelphia	7	3	700	1 1/2
Toronto	7	3	700	1 1/2
Brooklyn	4	6	400	4 1/2
New York	2	8	167	7

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	4	6	400	—
Atlanta	7	3	700	3
Charlotte	4	6	400	3
Orlando	2	8	200	4 1/2
Washington	2	6	250	4

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	3	6	333	—
Indiana	3	6	333	1/2
Cleveland	4	6	400	—
Chicago	4	6	364	3 1/2
Detroit	4	6	183	4

## Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	7	3	700	—
Phoenix	6	4	600	1
San Antonio	5	5	500	2
Memphis	4	6	400	3
New Orleans	2	8	200	5

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	8	3	727	—
Denver	7	3	700	1/2
Minnesota	4	6	600	3 1/2
Portland	4	7	364	4
Oklahoma City	2	7	222	4 1/2

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	9	3	800	—
L.A. Clippers	6	4	600	1
Phoenix	6	4	600	2
Golden State	2	9	182	6 1/2

Wednesday's games				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota 120, Detroit 114	8	3	727	—
Portland 116, Dallas 106	7	3	700	1/2
Memphis 113, San Antonio 109	4	6	400	3
Houston 122, New Orleans 116	5	5	500	2
A.C. Clippers 98, Toronto 88	4	6	400	3
Utah 122, Golden State 108	8	3	727	—

Thursday's games				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana 111, Oklahoma City 85	11	3	778	—
Utah 119, Brooklyn 114	9	3	800	—
Miami 117, Detroit 108	7	3	700	1/2
Chicago 120, New York 102	4	6	400	3
Atlanta 120, Denver 121	11	3	778	—
L.A. Lakers 123, Phoenix 115	11	3	778	—
Utah 119, Brooklyn 114	9	3	800	—
Sacramento 107, Portland 90	4	6	400	3

Friday's games				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis at Charlotte	4	6	400	3
Philadelphia at Orlando	7	3	700	1/2
L.A. Clippers at Washington	5	5	500	2
Golden State at L.A. Lakers	11	3	778	—
Washington at Minnesota	4	6	400	3
Dallas at New York	4	6	400	3
Miami at Milwaukee	7	3	700	1/2
Chicago at Atlanta	4	6	400	3
Atlanta at Phoenix	4	6	400	3
Brooklyn at Denver	2	8	200	5
Detroit at Charlotte	4	6	400	3
San Antonio at Orlando	2	8	200	5
Indiana at Houston	4	6	400	3
Philadelphia at Oklahoma City	7	3	700	1/2
Utah at Memphis	8	3	727	—
Washington at Minnesota	4	6	400	3
Golden State at Sacramento	11	3	778	—
L.A. Lakers	11	3	778	—

Saturday's games				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland 116, Dallas 106	7	3	700	1/2
Memphis 113, San Antonio 109	4	6	400	3
Houston 122, New Orleans 116	5	5	500	2
A.C. Clippers 98, Toronto 88	4	6	400	3
Utah 122, Golden State 108	8	3	727	—
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Memphis 113, San Antonio 109	4	6	400	3
Houston 122, New Orleans 116	5	5	500	2
A.C. Clippers 98, Toronto 88	4	6	400	3
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Memphis 113, San Antonio 109	4	6	400	3
Houston 122, New Orleans 116	5	5	500	2
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Memphis 113, San Antonio 109	4	6	400	3
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L.A. Lakers 123, Phoenix 115	11	3	778	—
Utah 119, Brooklyn 114	9	3	800	—
Sacramento 107, Portland 90	4	6	400	3

Sunday's
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# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Alabama drops to 5th in playoff rankings

## One-loss UGA moves into top four

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
Associated Press

Alabama is fifth in the latest College Football Playoff rankings, behind LSU, Ohio State, Clemson and Georgia, which took over the fourth spot in the selection committee's second top 25.

LSU replaced Ohio State as No. 1 on Tuesday night after the Tigers won at Alabama on Saturday. The Buckeyes were bumped to No. 2. Clemson moved up two spots to No. 3 after two teams ahead of the Tigers lost for the first time last week, including Alabama.

The Crimson Tide fell 46-41 to LSU and dropped two spots. Penn State, which had been No. 4, lost 31-26 at Minnesota and fell to ninth. The unbeaten Gophers climbed nine spots to eighth, the largest one-week jump in the six-year history of the College Football Playoff.

Georgia moved up two spots to give the Southeastern Conference two of the top four for the second straight week.

Selection committee chairman Rob Mullens, the Oregon athletic director, said Georgia's loss to South Carolina (4-6) was noted by the committee, but the Bulldogs' victories against No. 11 Florida and No. 16 Notre Dame pushed them past Alabama.

Oregon was sixth and fellow Pac-12 team Utah was seventh.

Oklahoma, the highest-ranked Big 12 team at No. 10, dropped a spot after a one-point victory against Iowa State. The Sooners face 13th-ranked Baylor on Saturday. The Bears are the lowest-ranked unbeaten team.

The highest-ranked Group of Five teams were 17th-ranked Cincinnati and 18th-ranked Memphis out of the American Athletic Conference. The highest-ranked team from outside the Power Five conferences receives an automatic bid to a New Year's Six bowl.

The final rankings and pairings for the College Football Playoff semifinal will be revealed Dec. 8.

### CFP rankings Nov. 12

	Record
1. LSU.....	9-0
2. Ohio St.....	9-0
3. Clemson.....	10-0
4. Georgia.....	8-1
5. Alabama.....	8-1
6. Oregon.....	8-1
7. Utah.....	8-1
8. Minnesota.....	9-0
9. Penn St.....	8-1
10. Oklahoma.....	8-1
11. Florida.....	8-2
12. Auburn.....	7-2
13. Baylor.....	9-0
14. Wisconsin.....	7-2
15. Michigan.....	7-2
16. Notre Dame.....	7-2
17. Cincinnati.....	8-1
18. Memphis.....	8-1
19. Texas.....	6-3
20. Iowa.....	6-3
21. Boise St.....	8-1
22. Oklahoma St.....	6-3
23. Navy.....	7-1
24. Kansas St.....	6-3
25. Appalachian St.....	8-1

The playoff semifinals match the No. 1 seed vs. the No. 4 seed, and No. 2 will face No. 3. The semifinals will be hosted at the Peach Bowl and Fiesta Bowl on Dec. 28. The championship game will be played on Jan. 13, 2020 at New Orleans.

Alabama is the only team to make the playoff all five years. Can it get there again?

Barring a stunning November collapse by LSU, the Crimson Tide will not reach the SEC championship game. Looking back at the teams that already took that route might provide clues.

The Ohio State team that reached the playoff in 2016 had a three-point loss at Penn State that kept it out of the Big Ten title game. The Nittany Lions finished fifth in the committee's final rankings with an 11-2 record. The Buckeyes on selection Sunday owned victories against the committee's sixth- (Michigan), seventh- (Oklahoma) and eighth- (Wisconsin) ranked teams, two on the road. They were exactly the type of team the playoff architects had in mind when they determined a conference championship should not be a requirement to make the playoff.

Ohio State was the third seed in those semifinals, so while there was some debate about whether it was fair to have Ohio State in over Penn State, the final choice



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION/AP

Georgia wide receiver George Pickens points to fans after catching a touchdown pass against Missouri. The Bulldogs (8-1) moved into the top four in the latest College Football Playoff rankings.

for the selection committee was between Penn State and Washington, the 12-1 Pac-12 champion. The Huskies didn't have much of a nonconference résumé, but one loss was better than two and Washington got the nod.

That was also the story of the 2017 selection process. Alabama was the fourth choice that year despite getting squeezed out of the SEC championship game by West rival Auburn. The Crimson Tide finished 11-1 and on selection Sunday held victories against teams the committee ranked 17th (LSU) and 23rd (Mississippi State). Alabama got the nod over Ohio State because of what it didn't do: Lose twice and get blown out by an unranked team. The Buckeyes (11-2) had both of those marks on their résumé, and even though they won the Big Ten, it wasn't enough.

So what does Alabama need to

happen this year to keep its streak of playoff appearances alive? The Tide won't have a résumé loaded with big wins to fall back on like Ohio State in 2016. Without that, the Tide could use at least two Power Five champions to finish with two or more losses. No Power Five champ with one loss or fewer has been left out for a team that did not win a conference.

Maybe the most comparable team to Alabama from previous years is Ohio State in 2015. Those Buckeyes were the defending national champions, with a loaded team that featured Ezekiel Elliott, Joey Bosa and eight other players that were drafted in the first three rounds the following April.

Those Buckeyes lost a November game at home to Michigan State on a last-second field goal. And that was it. The Buckeyes blew out rival Michigan the next

week to finish 11-1, but they really weren't even part of the playoff conversation heading into championship weekend.

Clemson made the playoff unbeaten. Alabama was a 12-1 SEC champion. The winner of undefeated Iowa and Michigan State played a playoff play-in game at the Big Ten championship that the Spartans won. Oklahoma earned its way in by winning the Big 12 without a conference championship game, but with four victories against teams in the committee's final top 25.

Unlike this Alabama team, that Ohio State team had a few close calls as it sorted out a quarter-back competition between Cardale Jones and J.T. Barrett. But just like this Alabama team, it would have been impossible to look at those Buckeyes and not see one of the four best teams in the country.

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## MLB

# League checking on report Astros stole signs in '17

By DAVID BRANDT  
Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Major League Baseball has expanded its investigation into the Houston Astros after The Athletic website reported the team stole signs during home games in 2017 by using a camera positioned in center field.

The report Tuesday quoted pitcher Mike Fiers, who played for the Astros that season, and three other unidentified people with the club. The Astros won the World Series that year — two sources told The Athletic that Houston used the system into the playoffs while another source said the system ended before the postseason.

The website said the process was started by a struggling hitter and a coach, neither of whom was identified. The camera at Minute Maid Park was connected to a television monitor in the tunnel between the Astros' dugout and clubhouse. The Athletic said, and team employees or players would communicate expected pitches by banging a trash can to signal off-speed pitches.

"I just want the game to be cleaned up a little bit because there are guys who are losing their jobs because they're going in there not knowing," Fiers told the website.

The Astros said in a statement the team "has begun an investigation in cooperation with Major League Baseball" and declined additional comment.

Houston general manager Jeff Luhnow declined to talk about specifics.

"We take the allegation seriously and we're going to look into it. If you're not following the rules, it's a serious matter," he said Tuesday at the annual GM meetings.

"I'm not going to get into exactly what I knew or anybody knew at this point. So I'm just going to have to wait and see. But I'm sure there will be an appropriate time to answer that question directly," Luhnow said he hoped the allegations wouldn't put a damper on Houston's recent run of success, which includes the team's first World Series title in 2017 and an AL pennant this season.

"Teams are competing with one another and everybody's trying to find an edge," Luhnow said. "But we all have to follow the rules and the rules are set by Major League Baseball. We all agree to follow them and if you don't there's ramifications to that. We want to follow the rules and we want to compete and win. That's what every other club does as well."

Danny Farquhar, who pitched for the Chicago White Sox twice at Minute Maid Park in September 2017, told The Athletic of "a banging from the dugout, almost like a bat hitting the bat rack every time a changeup signal got put down." He said after Chicago changed to more complex signals "the banging stopped."

Los Angeles Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman said Wednesday there was "scuttlebutt" that the Astros were stealing signs during the 2017 World Series, but "we certainly did not know anything definitive at the time." The Dodgers lost to the Astros in seven games.

"There are things that have kind of existed since the beginning of time. And then there are other things that are even more egregious and clearly across the line," he said. "And I think there are enough people involved in it, it would be pretty brazen to do certain things. And when you do, I think people are going to find out about it."



JIM MONE/AP

Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli narrowly beat out Aaron Boone of the New York Yankees to win AL Manager of the Year.



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

St. Louis Cardinals manager Mike Shildt edged out Craig Counsell of the Milwaukee Brewers to win NL Manager of the Year.

## Shildt, Baldelli top managers

By JAKE SEINER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Shildt began his life in baseball at his mom's side, tagging along with her to work at a Double-A ballpark and picking up odd jobs around the clubhouse.

When Shildt was recognized Tuesday night for the career that has followed, the late Lib Shildt was the first thing on his mind.

"My mom was remarkable," he said.

Less than a week after his mother died, Shildt was honored for piloting the St. Louis Cardinals back into the playoffs, narrowly beating Craig Counsell of the Milwaukee Brewers to win NL Manager of the Year.

Shildt earned the award in his first full season on the job, even though Counsell received more first-place votes (13-10) from the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli won the AL prize in a tight finish over Aaron Boone of the New York Yankees. Both received 13 first-place votes, but Baldelli got more second-place nods (13-9). The 38-year-old is the youngest to win the award.

Shildt teared up upon learning he'd been chosen. The 51-year-old is the first manager of the year who never played pro ball, but

he's been around the game since he was a child. His mom worked as an administrative assistant for the Charlotte O's in the Baltimore Orioles' system, and Shildt was a regular in the clubhouse.

"Appreciative of the time and love she and I did invested in me," Shildt said.

Hospitalized for her final days, Shildt's mother repeatedly told her nurses how important it was that she live until Tuesday to find out if her son had won.

"She was emotional about knowing it was likely she wasn't going to be here," Shildt said. "I said, 'You know what? You're going to know before I do.'"

Shildt replaced Mike Matheny as Cardinals manager during the 2018 season, and under his steady guidance, St. Louis has been among baseball's best teams since. The club won 91 games and the NL Central crown this year, ending the franchise's three-year postseason drought. The Cardinals gave Shildt a contract extension through the 2022 season.

Atlanta's Brian Snitker finished third after winning the award last year. The Dodgers' Dave Roberts was fourth and Nationals manager Dave Martinez came in fifth. Washington turned a 19-31 start into a World Series championship, but voting for the award concluded before the postseason began.

Baldelli and Shildt are the

eighth and ninth managers to win this award in their first full seasons on the job.

Baldelli took over a team that won 78 games in 2018 and pushed them to 101 victories and an AL Central title. He worked tightly with Minnesota's analytics-focused front office — a shift from predecessor Paul Molitor, who won the award in 2017 — and oversaw a turnaround powered by the team's major league-record 307 home runs.

"There's really no playbook," Baldelli said. "You certainly take advantage of the resources around you, the people who you trust, you rely on them in a lot of ways. I did that in a lot of different ways."

The self-dubbed Bomba Squad thrived under Baldelli, whose big league playing career was cut short by a rare disorder that led to frequent fatigue and soft tissue injuries.

One of Baldelli's priorities was keeping players rested, a strategy that worked especially well with his catchers. Nobody started more than 73 games behind the plate for Minnesota, yet the trio of Mitch Garver, Jason Castro and Willians Astudillo combined for 48 home runs, most in the majors by any team's backstops.

Rays manager Kevin Cash also earned three first-place votes and finished third. Oakland's Bob Melvin was fourth.

## Giants hire ex-Phillies manager Kapler to replace Bochy

By JANIE McCALLUE  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Gabe Kapler might need years to match the popularity of his predecessors at the San Francisco Giants.

Farhan Zaidi believes he will get there eventually.

Kapler has been hired as San Francisco's manager a month after being fired from the same job by the Philadelphia Phillies. Kapler received a three-year contract to replace Bruce Bochy, a beloved figure who retired after 13 years and three championships with San Francisco.

The Giants made the announcement late Tuesday and planned a formal introduction Wednesday afternoon at the ballpark.

Kapler is the second big hire in a matter of days by Zaidi, the Giants' president of baseball operations. On Monday, Zaidi introduced new general manager Scott Harris, most recently an assistant GM for the Chicago Cubs.

Zaidi and Kapler are now reunited from their time with the Los Angeles Dodgers, where Kapler served as director of player development and Zaidi the general manager.

"The most important trait, if we could have summarized it in one sentence for the next manager, was somebody who was capable of building trust and relationships with both the players and the front office," Zaidi said. "And in my experience, with Gabe, and as we went through the interview process and got to learn more about

him, it became clear to us that he was the person who could best execute on that."

The 44-year-old Kapler was fired Oct. 10 after going 161-163 over two seasons with the Phillies. With slugger Bryce Harper their blockbuster acquisition, the Phillies finished 81-81 this year for their first nonlosing season since 2012.

Last week, the Giants narrowed their managerial search to three finalists: Kapler, Astros bench coach Joe Espada and Rays bench coach Matt Quattrone.

Harris said he was impressed with the reference checks done on Kapler around the game. The Giants also received feedback from current San Francisco players.

A former outfielder, Kapler played parts of 12 major league seasons with six teams and was a career .268 hitter.

Bochy announced in February at spring training that he would retire after the season. He managed the Giants to World Series championships in 2010, '12 and '14. San Francisco went 77-85 in his final year.

Kapler has big shoes to fill. Bochy followed Felipe Alou and Dusty Baker in the job — all adored in the Bay Area.

"Gabe's someone obviously I worked with for three years and got to know personally and obviously know very well from a professional standpoint," Zaidi said. "I feel really optimistic and confident that once our fan base gets to know him, they're going to know the person I've known personally and professionally and be really excited about him as our next manager. There have been some portrayals of him publicly that I don't even recognize."



# NHL

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Record
Boston	18	11	3	4	26	64	48	+16	11-3-4
Montreal	18	10	5	3	23	64	56	+8	10-5-3
Florida	18	9	4	5	21	67	47	+20	9-4-5
Toronto	19	9	6	4	22	64	62	+2	9-6-4
Buffalo	15	9	6	2	20	50	48	+2	9-6-2
Tampa Bay	18	8	7	3	22	52	52	0	8-7-3
Detroit	20	7	12	1	15	46	75	-29	7-12-1
Ottawa	17	6	10	1	13	47	59	-12	6-10-1

Metropolitan Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Record
N.Y. Islanders	16	12	3	1	25	49	35	+14	12-3-1
Pittsburgh	17	10	5	2	22	56	32	+24	10-5-2
Columbus	18	10	7	1	22	60	47	+13	10-7-1
Carolina	18	10	7	1	21	61	52	+9	10-7-1
N.Y. Rangers	16	8	7	1	18	54	53	+1	8-7-1
Columbus	16	6	8	4	16	41	62	-21	6-8-4
New Jersey	16	5	7	4	14	42	61	-19	5-7-4

### Western Conference

Central Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Record
St. Louis	19	12	3	4	28	59	54	+5	12-3-4
Colorado	18	11	5	2	24	66	49	+17	11-5-2
Nashville	18	9	4	5	21	68	59	+9	9-4-5
Winnipeg	19	10	8	1	21	51	58	-7	10-8-1
Illinois	18	8	7	3	18	43	45	-2	8-7-3
Chicago	17	6	7	4	16	45	63	-18	6-7-4
Minnesota	16	6	11	2	13	47	63	-16	6-11-2

Pacific Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Record
Edmonton	20	12	6	2	26	61	50	+11	12-6-2
Vancouver	19	11	6	2	24	56	46	+10	11-6-2
San Jose	19	10	6	3	23	63	54	+9	10-6-3
Vancouver	20	10	7	3	23	69	59	+10	10-7-3
Vegas	19	9	7	3	21	56	56	0	9-7-3
Anaheim	19	9	8	2	20	50	57	-7	9-8-2
San Jose	19	8	10	1	17	54	67	-13	8-10-1
Los Angeles	18	6	11	1	13	46	67	-21	6-11-1

**Notes:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

**Monday's games**  
 Carolina & Ottawa  
 Arizona & Washington, St. Louis & Florida, St. Louis & Colorado, St. Louis & N.Y. Rangers, Pittsburgh & OT Columbus, Detroit & Winnipeg  
**Tuesday's games**  
 St. Louis & N.Y. Islanders, St. Louis & Washington at Philadelphia, Chicago at Vegas  
**Wednesday's games**  
 Ottawa at New Jersey  
**Thursday's games**  
 Winnipeg & N.Y. Rangers, Tampa Bay & Arizona at Minnesota, Dallas at Edmonton, San Jose at Anaheim  
**Friday's games**  
 Pittsburgh at Vancouver, St. Louis & Columbus, Montreal at Washington, Philadelphia at Ottawa

### Calendar

**Nov. 15** — Hockey Hall of Fame Game, Boston at Toronto  
**Nov. 18** — Hockey Hall of Fame Induction, Toronto  
**Nov. 19** — NHL general managers meeting, Toronto  
**Nov. 20** — Opening deadline Group 2 free agents (5 p.m. EST).

### Tuesday

#### Rangers 3, Penguins 2 (OT)

**N.Y. Rangers** 3, **Pittsburgh** 2 (OT)  
 First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Kakko 5 (DeAngelis, Lemieux); 6:42, 2, N.Y. Rangers, Fox (Chytka, Panarin); 19:49.  
 Second Period—1, Pittsburgh, Schultz 2 (Pettersson, Makkin); 11:13, 4, Rangers, Lemieux (12:23 gp).  
**Overtime**—5, N.Y. Rangers, Kakko 6 (0:21).  
**Shots on Goal**—Pittsburgh 8-11-12; 1-32, N.Y. Rangers 11-7-8-1-27.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Pittsburgh 1 of 3; N.Y. Rangers 0 of 3.  
**Goalies**—Pittsburgh: Murray 9-3-2 (27 shots-24 saves). N.Y. Rangers: Geogevich 4-3-1 (32-30).  
**A**—16,904 (18,006). T—2:23.

### Canadiens 3, Blue Jackets 2 (SO)

**Columbus** 2, **Montreal** 0  
**Montreal won shootout 1-0**  
 First Period—1, Columbus, Robinson 1 (Werniski, Bernstrom); 16:46.  
 Second Period—1, Montreal, Callagher 8 (Weber, Meier); 3:27, 3, Columbus, Werenich (Atkinson, Nash); 16:17, 4, Montreal, Tatar 6 (Danaul, Suzuki); 19:19.  
**Shootout**—Columbus 0 (Atkinson NG), Nash NG, Borkstrand NG, Montreal 1 (Byron NG, Drouin G, Cousins NG).  
**Shots on Goal**—Columbus 15-11-6-3-35; Montreal 11-14-7-3-32.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Columbus 0 of 3; Montreal 0 of 3.  
**Goalies**—Columbus: Merzlikins 0-1-3 (22 shots-30 saves). Montreal: Price 9-4-2 (35-33).  
**A**—20,758 (21,288). T—2:44.

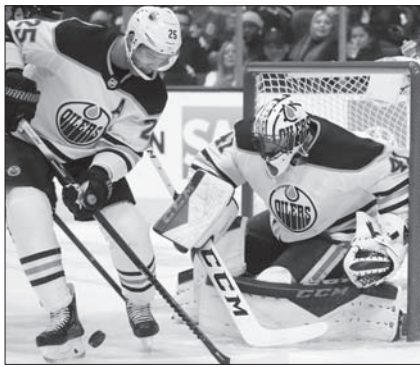
### Sharks 6, Oilers 3

**Edmonton** 3, **San Jose** 6  
 First Period—1, San Jose, Burns 4 (Sorenson, Simsek); 4:02, 2, San Jose, Kane 1 (Couture, Draisaitl); 7:27, 3, San Jose, Meier 4 (Heed, Thornton); 11:12.  
**Second Period**—4, San Jose, Goodrow 5 (Ekarsten, O'Leary); 5:26, 5, Edmonton, Draisaitl 5 (Gagner, Bear); 9:57, 6, San Jose, Herti 8 (Couture, Ekarsten); 17:34.  
**Third Period**—7, Edmonton, Kassian 6 (McDavid, Draisaitl); 9:08, 8, San Jose, Meier 5 (Goodrow, Gagnier); 11:19, 9, Edmonton, Gagner 1 (Russell, Nygard); 12:32, 5, San Jose.  
**Shots on Goal**—Edmonton 9-6-9-24; San Jose 8-9-9-25.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Edmonton 0 of 2; San Jose 0 of 3.  
**Goalies**—Edmonton: Smith 5-4-1 (25 shots-19 saves). San Jose: Jones 6-7-1 (24-21).  
**A**—15,567 (17,562). T—2:24.

### Scoring Leaders Through Tuesday

Player	GP	G	A	Pts
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	18	16	16	31
David Pastrnak, BOS	18	16	16	31
Connor McDavid, EDM	20	11	20	31
Brad Marchand, BOS	18	11	19	30
John Carlson, WAS	18	11	21	29
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	18	11	19	29
Auston Matthews, TOR	19	13	12	25
Jonathan Huberdeau, FLA	18	13	12	25
Brady Tkachuk, FLA	18	13	12	25
Alex Ovechkin, WAS	19	13	10	23
Blake Wheeler, VAN	18	11	15	23
Patrick Kane, CHI	17	12	10	22

10 tied with 19 pts.



BEN MARGOT/AP

**The Edmonton Oilers' Darnell Nurse, left, defends on a shot by the Sharks with goalie Mike Smith during the first period of Tuesday's game in San Jose, Calif. The Sharks won 6-3.**

### Panthers 5, Bruins 4 (SO)

**Florida** 5, **Boston** 4  
 First Period—1, Boston, Pastrnak 16 (Bergeron); 11:55, 2, Boston, Nordstrom 2 (Coyle); 14:02, 3, Boston, Bork 3 (Marchand, Krejci); 17:16 (gp), 4, Boston, Chara 3 (Gjennin, Kogej); 19:31.  
**Second Period**—5, Florida, Ekblad 2 (Barkov, Vande, 0:50, 6, Florida, Vatrano 6 (Huberdeau); 5:26 (p), 7, Florida, Hoffman 7 (Vandell, Huberdeau); 9:43 (gp), 8, Florida, Vande 2 (Huberdeau, Barkov); 18:21.  
**Shootout**—Florida 2 (Vatrano NG, Trocheck G, Huberdeau NG, Hoffman NG), Boston 1 (Wagner NG, Marchand NG, Coyle G, McAvoy NG).  
**Shots on Goal**—Florida 5-12-25-29; Boston, 16-6-36-38.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Florida 2 of 4; Boston 1 of 2.  
**Goalies**—Florida: Montembeault 3-1-1 (15 shots-15 saves). Bolobryak 6-3-4 (23-19). Boston: Rask 7-5-2 (29-25).  
**A**—17,850 (17,565). T—2:47.

### Avalanche 4, Jets 0

**Colorado** 4, **Winnipeg** 0  
**First Period**—1, Colorado, Makor 5 (Cole, MacKinnon); 19:01.  
**Second Period**—2, Colorado, MacKinnon 10 (Donskoi, Calvert); 0:18, 3, Colorado, MacKinnon 11 (Donskoi, Calvert); 7:13, 4, Colorado, Donskoi 9 (MacKinnon, Kadri); 13:13 (gp).  
**Shootout**—Colorado 4-8-9-25; Winnipeg 9-12-19-40.  
**Goalies**—Colorado: Wornen 1-0-0 (40 shots-40 saves). Francoeur 4-2-0 (0-0). Winnipeg: Hellebuyck 8-6-1 (25-21).  
**A**—17,625 (15,321). T—2:23.

### Kings 3, Wild 1

**Minnesota** 1, **St. Louis** 3  
**First Period**—1, St. Louis, Schwartz 4 (Schenn, Pietrangeli); 10:13, 17:13.  
**Second Period**—2, St. Louis, Carter 5 (Hutton, Amadio); 10:56, 3, Minnesota, Dumba 3; 15:40.  
**Third Period**—4, St. Louis, Walker 4 (Kopitar); 19:13.  
**Shots on Goal**—Minnesota 11-8-9-28; St. Louis 11-13-27-41.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Minnesota 0 of 3; St. Louis 1 of 3.  
**Goalies**—Minnesota: Dumba 3-1-3 (34 shots-32 saves). St. Louis: Quick 3-8-0 (28-27).  
**A**—16,099 (18,230). T—2:26.

### Coyotes 3, Bruins 2 (SO)

**Arizona** 3, **St. Louis** 2  
**First Period**—1, St. Louis, Schwartz 4 (Schenn, Pietrangeli); 10:13, 17:13.  
**Second Period**—2, Arizona, Keller 4, 6:47, 3, St. Louis, Maroney 1 (Garabush, Sundqvist); 15:41.  
**Third Period**—4, Arizona, Garland 8 (Dvorak, Keller); 5:58 (gp).  
**Shootout**—Arizona 3 (Schmaltz G, Garland G), St. Louis 0 (Bozak NG, O'Reilly NG).  
**Shots on Goal**—Arizona 9-6-5-22; St. Louis 8-16-7-4-35.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Arizona 1 of 3; St. Louis 0 of 3.  
**Goalies**—Arizona: Kuemper 8-5-0 (35 shots-33 saves). St. Louis: Binnington 9-2-4 (22-20).  
**A**—18,096 (19,150). T—2:38.

## Roundup

# Panthers rally from four down, top Bruins in SO

Associated Press

**BOSTON** — Down four goals after two periods, Florida coach Joel Quenneville switched goalies and the Panthers responded with the biggest comeback in club history.

Mike Hoffman scored one of four Florida goals in the third period and added the winner in a shootout as the Panthers rallied from a four-goal deficit and beat the Boston Bruins 5-4 on Tuesday night.

"Obviously, you don't want to be down 4-0 at any point in the game — especially with only one period left," Hoffman said. "But the guys in here stuck together, dug deep and just tried to chip away."

The Panthers continued chipping away and won a game they trailed by four goals for the first time since they joined the NHL as an expansion club in 1993-94.

Keith Yandle had a goal and two assists for Florida and Sam Montembeault didn't allow a goal after replacing Sergei Bobrovsky at the start of the third period.

Montembeault finished with 15 saves, six in overtime, and stopped Charlie McAvoy on Boston's last chance in the shootout as the Panthers completed the comeback and gave Quenneville career victory No. 899.

"It's huge. We never gave up. We talked to each other after the second," Montembeault said.

**Canadiens 3, Blue Jackets 2 (SO):** Jonathan Drouin scored the shootout winner and host Montreal rallied to beat Columbus.

**Rangers 3, Penguins 2 (OT):** Kaapo Kakko scored his second goal of the game 2:36 into overtime, giving host New York a victory over Pittsburgh.

**Avalanche 4, Jets 0:** Adam Werner made 40 saves in his NHL debut and Nathan MacKinnon finished with two goals and two assists as visiting Colorado extended its winning streak to three games.

**Coyotes 3, Blues 2 (SO):** Nick Schmaltz and Connor Garland scored in the shootout, and visiting Arizona snapped St. Louis' seven-game winning streak.

**Canucks 5, Predators 3:** Elias Pettersson scored two goals on his 21st birthday and host Vancouver snapped a four-game winless streak with a win over Nashville.

**Red Wings 4, Ducks 3 (OT):** Dylan Larkin scored the tying goal during a 6-on-3 advantage with 37 seconds left in regulation, and Dennis Cholowski scored with 2:54 on the clock in overtime to send visiting Detroit to its third straight victory.

**Sharks 6, Oilers 3:** Tomas Hertl scored and extended his point streak to four games on his 26th birthday, Evander Kane added his team-leading 11th goal of the season and host San Jose beat Edmonton.

**Kings 3, Wild 1:** Anze Kopitar extended his point streak to four games, Jonathan Quick made 27 saves and host Los Angeles snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Minnesota.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

**Florida Panthers** goaltender Sam Montembeault, right, stops a shot by Bruins right wing Chris Wagner during the shootout of Monday's game in Boston. The Panthers defeated the Bruins 5-4.

## NFL



KEITH SRANOC/AP

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Diontae Johnson, center, finishes the football as he is tackled by Los Angeles Rams linebacker Travin Howard, bottom left, during the first half Sunday in Pittsburgh.

# Drop Zone? Steelers WRs searching for consistency

By WILL GRAVES  
Associated Press

**V**ANCE McDONALD should have been pumped. Thrilled, even. Yet he wasn't. He couldn't be.

As his Pittsburgh Steelers teammates celebrated around him following a 17-12 victory over the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday, the veteran tight end stewed.

Yes, the Steelers had pushed their winning streak to four when safety Minkah Fitzpatrick hauled in the clinching interception in the final seconds. McDonald, however, would have preferred if his team wasn't forced to sweat it out. Yet it had to thanks in part to a pair of dropped passes and a fumble by McDonald. The sting of the miscues lingered inside an otherwise giddy locker room.

"It doesn't feel good," McDonald said Tuesday. "I was unhappy. It shouldn't feel that way, because we won."

McDonald was hardly alone. Wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster and running back Jaylen Samuels also couldn't come down with balls that smacked off their hands, would-be receptions that would have extended drives. And a pretty 34-yard catch-and-run by James Washington ended in nightmarish fashion when he was stripped shortly after extending his right arm — which had the ball in it at the time — in an effort to direct the blocking in front of him.

For an offense still searching for a rhythm under starting quarterback Mason Rudolph, those



Pittsburgh Steelers (5-4)  
at Cleveland Browns (3-6)

AFN-Sports

2:20 a.m. Friday CET  
10:20 a.m. Friday JKT

kind of missed opportunities can be costly. The fact they haven't been while the Steelers (5-4) have emerged from a 1-4 start is a testament to a dominant defense that is second in the league in takeaways (26) and third in sacks (33) heading into Thursday night's visit to Cleveland.

McDonald and the rest of the offense know it's time to start helping the defense if Pittsburgh wants to entertain any ideas of reaching the postseason.

"We've got to execute," McDonald said. "Especially when the defense does the performance that they did, we've got to close games out as an offense."

Measuring drops is an inexact science. So is determining what is and isn't catchable. Yet the Steelers understand their margin for error isn't as big with Mason Rudolph replacing the injured Ben Roethlisberger. Roethlisberger led the NFL in attempts, completions and yards passing in 2018 while throwing to a group that included Antonio Brown. Fast forward 12 months and Roethlisberger is recovering from

season-ending right elbow surgery and Brown is in self-induced exile after burning through three teams in six months. The Steelers are 23rd in pass attempts this season, meaning there are fewer chances for playmakers to make plays, magnifying the importance of every mistake.

"We threw the ball a lot last year," offensive coordinator Randy Fichtner said. "Everyone knew they were going to get an opportunity. It was going to present itself in every series. And the running backs knew that at the right appropriate time if they weren't catching it, they were getting an opportunity to run it. It's been a little bit different."

Out of necessity more than anything else, injuries have already forced the Steelers to use three starting quarterbacks, five running backs and four tight ends.

There hasn't been much stability at wide receiver, either. Donte Moncrief, a high-profile addition after Brown forced a trade to Oakland, was out earlier this month following a nightmarish two months in which he plummeted down the depth chart following a handful of costly drops, including one that directly led to an interception in a Week 2 loss to Seattle.

McDonald caught a pair of touchdowns in the second half against the Seahawks after Rudolph came in for Roethlisberger, but he's been only sporadically involved since.

"We have big plans for everybody, in general," Fichtner said. "The road kind of winded left and then right and left and right and up and down."

## Scoreboard

### AFC individual leaders

Week 10 Quarterbacks				
Player	Att	Com	Yds	TD Int
Rivers, LAC	364	240	2816	14 10
Mahomes, KC	291	153	2526	18 4
Brady, NE	355	230	2536	14 5
D. Watson, HOU	302	212	2432	18 7
Minshew, JAC	307	188	2285	13 3
Dalton, CIN	338	204	2252	9 8
D. Carr, BUF	281	195	2202	14 4
Mayfield, CLE	309	185	2201	9 12
L. Jackson, BAL	255	166	2036	15 5
Josh Allen, BUF	284	170	1919	10 7
Rushers				
Player	Att	Yds	LG	TD
N. Chubb, CLE	174	919	53	88T 6
D. Henry, TEN	187	852	44	68T 8
Fournette, JAC	174	831	48	81 1
J. Jacobs, OAK	168	811	48	51 7
M. Mack, IND	178	753	42	68T 3
C. Hyde, HOU	149	704	47	58 3
L. Jackson, BAL	106	702	65	47T 42
M. Ingram, BAL	123	619	50	53 6
Lindsay, DEN	118	584	43	26 6
Michel, NE	144	482	33	26 6
Receivers				
Player	Re	Yds	LG	TD
Keleke, KC	56	741	132	42 3
K. Allen, KC	62	725	117	34 3
C. Sutton, DEN	44	692	157	70T 4
Chark, JAC	43	692	161	69 1
Jo. Brown, BUF	47	690	145	38T 2
D. Hopkins, HOU	68	665	98	38 4
Edelman, NE	63	653	105	36 4
J. Landry, CLE	45	652	145	65 2
Beckham, CLE	44	632	144	89T 1
Boyd, CIN	57	598	105	47 1
Punters				
Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
T. Long, LAC	29	1383	49	47T 7
Keith, IND	44	259	71	33 1
A. Cole, OAK	36	1702	69	47 3
Gillan, CLE	38	1773	71	46T 7
L. Edwards, NYJ	42	1756	63	46T 7
Berry, PIT	39	1796	62	46T 1
Hackie, MIA	42	1626	46	46 1
Cooke, JAC	42	1505	61	45T 4
Colquitt, KC	31	1397	48	45T 1
Sanchez, IND	32	1247	49	45T 1
Punt returns				
Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
Rogers, IND	12	128	107	21 0
Cy Jones, BAL	12	113	74	15 0
Oliszewski, NE	20	179	90	22 0
D. Carter, HOU	14	124	83	23 0
Sampson, DEN	21	172	82	42 0
A. Roberts, BUF	16	110	69	22 0
King, LAC	14	143	63	68 0
Westbrook, JAC	14	73	52	24 0
D. Thomas, KC	13	67	42	10 0
Kickoff returns				
Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
B. Wilson, CIN	43	522	36T 21	0
A. Roberts, BUF	12	343	28	66 0
Chubb, NYJ	12	343	28	66 0
Hardman, KC	18	414	23	34 0
Karr, MIA	17	355	20	39 0
J. Hill, BAL	12	277	183	46 0
Scoring				
Touchdowns				
Player	TD	Rush	Rec	Pts
D. Henry, TEN	10	8	2	60
E. Klier, LAC	8	0	0	48
M. Ingram, BAL	8	0	0	50
Chubb, NYJ	6	0	0	40
Jo. Allen, BAL	6	0	0	40
N. Chubb, CLE	6	0	0	36
Conner, PIT	6	4	2	36
D. Carr, BUF	6	0	0	36
L. Jackson, BAL	6	0	0	36
Michel, NE	6	0	0	36
Field Goals				
Player	FG	LG	Pts	
B. Tucker, KC	12	29-31	27	54
Travis, LAC	11	31-32	27	51
C. Boswell, PIT	12	32-33	24	51
S. Belton, HOU	19	19-19	51	73
Seibert, CLE	13	16-16	39	61
M. McManus, DEN	12	14-15	53	57
Verity, CIN	14	14-20	54	68
Bullock, CIN	14	14-15	48	57
D. Carlson, OAK	25	26-32	51	52

### AFC team statistics

Week 10 AVERAGE PER GAME				
OFFENSE				
Team	Yds	Rush	Pass	Pts
Baltimore	404.7	177.2	224.4	18
Kansas City	404.7	90.8	313.9	19
Detroit	387.2	142.8	254.9	19
Jacksonville	372.7	128.7	247.6	16
Atlanta	368.4	164.4	204.1	14
New England	366.8	92.9	273.9	19
L.A. Chargers	356.2	86.1	270.1	16
Indianapolis	348.4	124.8	223.6	17
Milwaukee	338.8	127.4	211.3	13
San Francisco	336.9	110.5	226.4	17
Tennessee	319.4	113.2	206.2	12
Cincinnati	318.1	110.5	207.6	17
Pittsburgh	288.8	83.2	205.6	16
Philadelphia	288.1	104.4	183.7	14
N.Y. Jets	271.3	67.3	164.0	14
DEFENSE				
Team	Yds	Rush	Pass	Pts
New England	249.3	99.1	150.2	20
Buffalo	304.2	126.2	178.0	19
Denver	309.7	107.6	202.1	21
San Francisco	304.2	110.5	193.7	17
Indianapolis	327.6	104.3	223.2	17
Philadelphia	328.2	110.5	217.8	17
Baltimore	344.1	91.2	252.9	19
N.Y. Jets	344.3	81.9	262.4	19
Jacksonville	356.0	134.9	221.1	16
Cleveland	356.0	134.9	221.1	16
Houston	361.6	84.2	277.3	13
Kansas City	369.5	148.1	221.4	14
Oakland	391.0	146.1	244.9	19
Cincinnati	429.4	173.0	256.4	14

### NFC individual leaders

Week 10 Quarterbacks				
Player	Att	Com	Yds	TD Int
Prescott, DAL	319	218	2777	18 9
Matthews, TAM	291	153	2526	18 4
R. Wilson, SEA	327	224	2737	23 2
Rodgers, GBY	347	225	2718	17 2
A. Jones, GBY	355	230	2536	14 5
K. Murray, ARI	360	230	2553	12 7
G. Stafford, DET	314	209	2489	16 7
Cousins, MIN	285	197	2437	18 3
Ryan, ATL	322	225	2352	17 9
Wentz, PHI	300	190	2060	15 4
Rushers				
Player	Att	Yds	LG	TD
D. Cook, MIN	203	991	49	75T 10
McCoy, CAR	189	869	48	11 1
Carson, SEA	200	853	43	59 1
E. Elliott, DAL	178	788	44	27 6
A. Jones, GBY	135	589	44	26 10
Breida, SAN	109	542	50	83T 1
J. Howard, PHI	119	525	44	20 6
A. Peterson, WAS	115	491	43	29 1
Montgomery, CHI	129	466	36	55 6
Gurley, LA	104	428	41	25 6
Receivers				
Player	Re	Yds	LG	TD
M. Thomas, NOR	86	1027	119	42 4
M. Evans, TAM	54	924	171	67T 1
C. Cooper, DAL	53	848	160	53T 7
Godwin, TAM	60	840	140	49 6
Lockett, SEA	53	743	128	48 6
Kupp, LA	58	792	137	66 5
U. Jones, ATL	53	791	143	54 6
S. Diggs, MIN	41	759	153	66 4
Golladay, DET	38	697	183	66 8
B. Moore, CAR	34	684	117	52T 1
Punters				
Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
A. Lee, ARI	36	1749	54	48T 6
Way, WAS	44	2129	66	48T 4
Phillips, PHI	34	160	67	47 0
Hickson, LA	34	1581	71	46T 5
Gixon, NYG	46	1987	59	46 0
Dekker, SEA	45	2084	63	46 3
J. Scott, GBY	47	2157	66	45T 4
Chargers, CAR	42	1927	58	45 9
Moorehead, NOR	36	1643	64	45 6
Colquitt, MIN	36	1642	59	45 4
Punt returns				
Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
Cohen, CHI	22	235	107	21 0
D. Harris, NOR	24	232	97	53T 1
R. James, SNF	15	233	53	32 3
Natanson, LA	15	139	93	35 0
Barnes, LAC	12	82	47	22 0
Lockett, SEA	13	66	51	20 0
Agnew, DET	13	54	42	24 0
Sobo Wilson, TAM	15	42	38	11 0
Kickoff returns				
Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
Patterson, CHI	19	552	29	110T 1
Agnew, DET	14	376	26	910T 0
D. Harris, NOR	13	390	22	67 0
M. Sanders, PHI	14	214	22	67 0
S. Sims, WAS	12	255	22	67 0
Logan, TAM	12	255	21	39 0
Scoring				
Touchdowns				
Player	TD	Rush	Rec	Pts
McCaffrey, CAR	11	10	1	66
A. Jones, GBY	11	1	0	84
D. Cook, MIN	10	10	0	60
Golladay, DET	8	0	0	48
M. Evans, TAM	7	0	0	44
C. Cooper, DAL	7	0	0	44
Gurley, LA	7	6	1	42
J. Howard, PHI	7	6	1	42
Thielen, MIN	7	1	6	42
Godwin, TAM	6	0	0	36
Chargers, CAR	6	0	0	36
Field Goals				
Player	FG	LG	Pts	
Gonzalez, ARI	18-18	24-27	54	90
Gray, TAM	12-12	29-31	27	54
L. R. Brown, NOR	19-19	23-27	58	76
Zuerlein, LA	23-23	17-22	58	74
Phillips, PHI	22-22	16-16	54	82
D. Bailey, MIN	19-19	27-29	51	72

## NFL/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Kaepernick to audition in private workout

By ROB MAADDI

Associated Press

Colin Kaepernick plans to audition for NFL teams on Saturday in a private workout arranged by the league to be held in Atlanta.

The exiled former Pro Bowl quarterback posted on Twitter: "I'm just getting word from my representatives that the NFL league office reached out to them about a workout in Atlanta on Saturday. I've been in shape and ready for this for 3 years, can't wait to see the head coaches and GMs on Saturday."

The NFL hasn't confirmed Kaepernick's workout details.

A person familiar with the plans told The Associated Press the league's decision to invite all 32 teams to watch Kaepernick "came out of the blue with no prior communication." The person said Kaepernick's team was given a 2-hour window to accept the invitation and was denied a request to schedule the tryout on a Tuesday or another Saturday. Kaepernick's representatives have asked the league to provide a rolling list of teams that plan to attend the workout to ensure it is a "legitimate process," according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because details haven't been made public.

Kaepernick hasn't played since 2016 with the San Francisco 49ers. He helped start a wave of protests about social and racial injustice that season by kneeling during the national anthem.

The NFL in February settled a collusion grievance Kaepernick and former teammate Eric Reid filed against the league. Reid now plays for the Carolina Panthers.

## Top 25 roundup

## Oregon holds off Wiseman, Memphis

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Oregon weathered some early season mistakes in a competitive November matchup with Memphis.

Shakur Juiston had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and No. 14 Oregon overcame the lapses to hold off the 13th-ranked Tigers 82-74 in the inaugural Phil Knight Invitational on Tuesday night.

"As a team we knew that we were just making a lot of mistakes, with the ball and defense," Ducks guard Will Richardson said. "We never really hung our heads, we always kept our heads and kept fighting because we knew it was all things we could fix, and if we fixed those things, we'd be right back in the game."

Payton Pritchard added 14 points and six assists as the Ducks collected their third straight win to open the season.

James Wiseman had 14 points and 12 rebounds as controversy continued to swirl around the Tigers' 7-foot-1 freshman phenom. Memphis (2-1) was led by Lester Quinones with 16 points.

The Ducks led by as many as 12 points in the second half, but Memphis closed within 65-61 after Quinones' fast-break layup capped an 8-0 run.

Pritchard's three-pointer put Oregon up 70-61 with 53 left. Wiseman's jumper got the Tigers within four points at 71-67, but Richardson's three extended the lead again for the Ducks.

Pritchard snuck another three-pointer with 1:32 left that made it 77-69 and Memphis could not catch up.

Wiseman played sparingly in the first half after collecting two quick fouls.

Memphis issued a statement on Friday saying Wiseman, the nation's top-rated recruit and likely a first-round NBA draft pick next



CRAIG MITCHELL/EP/AP

Oregon forward Francis Okoro, right, shoots over Memphis center James Wiseman during the first half on Tuesday.

year, would miss games while the university worked to restore his eligibility.

But the school also said it supports Wiseman challenging the NCAA and has let him play under a temporary restraining order obtained by his attorney.

**No. 2 Duke 105, Central Arkansas 54:** Freshman Matthew Hurt scored 19 points to help the host Blue Devils beat the Bears.

Fellow freshman Vernon Carey Jr. added season highs of 17 points and 10 rebounds for Duke, which played much of the night without starting point guard Tre Jones after he was shaken up during a first-half collision.

Duke (3-0) had no trouble, running off 19 straight points to build

a 25-5 lead by midway through the opening half.

**No. 8 Gonzaga 97, North Dakota 66:** Filip Petrushev had 19 points, 15 rebounds and four blocked shots as the host Bulldogs beat the Fighting Hawks.

Corey Kispert scored 20 points and Anton Watson added 15 for Gonzaga (3-0), which has romped to victory in all three games. Six Bulldogs scored in double figures.

**No. 17 Utah State 97, Denver 56:** Brock Miller scored a career-high 27 points, and the host Aggies cruised past the Pioneers.

Alphonso Anderson added 15 points and Sam Merrill had 14.

**No. 20 Washington 56, Mount St. Mary's 46:** Isaiah Stewart

scored 16 points and blocked five shots, Nahziah Carter scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half and the host Huskies (2-0) overcame an awful first half offensively to pull away from the Mountaineers.

Stewart was again a force on the interior as the freshman made seven of 10 shots, mostly from close range, and was imposing defensively.

Mount St. Mary's (1-2) wouldn't go away, hitting five three-pointers in the second half as it found gaps in Washington's zone defense.

**No. 21 Xavier 63, Missouri 58 (OT):** Naji Marshall hit a three-pointer that tied it in regulation and made a pair of free throws in overtime as the host Musketeers overcame poor outside shooting and rallied past the Tigers.

Xavier (3-0) let a 15-point lead slip away because it couldn't hit an outside shot, going only 3-for-21 from beyond the arc. Marshall's three-pointer — Xavier's only one in the second half — tied it 51-41 with 27.1 seconds left. Marshall finished with 17 points and eight rebounds.

Missouri (2-1) missed a three at the end of regulation and never led in overtime.

Dru Smith led the Tigers with 22 points, 10 rebounds and four assists.

**No. 22 Auburn 70, South Alabama 69:** At Mobile, Ala., freshman Isaac Okoro made a layup with 29 seconds left to lift the Tigers past the Jaguars.

Samir Doughty twice rebounded missed three-pointers for Auburn (3-0), setting up the game-winning shot.

Okoro had 15 points, six rebounds and six assists.

Andre Fox led South Alabama (2-1) with 23 points on 9-for-17 shooting. He also had 10 rebounds.

## Aces: Evansville dictated tempo, controlled both ends of floor and was 'tougher team'

## FROM FRONT PAGE

Those expectations never materialized as Owensville (2-0) controlled the younger Wildcats both on and off the floor.

K.J. Riley added 18 points as the Purple Aces — coached by Walter McCarty, who won a national title with Kentucky in 1996 — pulled off the biggest upset in program history with their first victory over a No. 1 team in three tries.

Evansville led much of the game and answered each Kentucky rally with clutch baskets to grab the lead and then maintain it for the season's biggest upset so far.

Kentucky had been 39-0 at home against unranked, nonconference opponents when ranked No. 1 in The Associated Press poll. Evansville, meanwhile, got its first-ever road win over an AP-ranked team.

"Walter and the team deserved to win," Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "If we would have somehow pulled it out, it would have been, kind of wouldn't even have been fair because they fought us the whole game and they were the tougher team."

"They executed, they made shots and threes and free throws. My hat's off to

them. It's hard to do that in this building, but they were more ready to play. He had his team better prepared than I had my team."

Tyrese Maxey's layup with 8 seconds remaining got Kentucky within 65-64, but Cunliffe stepped to the line and calmly made both ends of the 1-and-1 as his teammates locked arms on the bench. The Purple Aces raised their hands and ran around a silent Rupp Arena after the final horn as the Wildcats slowly walked off.

Immanuel Quickley led Kentucky with 16 points, and Maxey scored 15.

Cunliffe, a redshirt junior guard who played at Arizona State and Kansas, did most of his damage with 15 first-half points off the bench.

"It's amazing. You come to a school like this and you talk about doing things like this and making history and playing in front of these bright lights," Cunliffe said. "We prepared the right way. We had our mind set in the right spot that we could actually do it. It is surreal."

Evansville won just 11 games last season, its first under McCarty, who played in the NBA for 10 years and was an assist-

ant at Louisville under Rick Pitino — his coach at Kentucky — and in the NBA before returning to his hometown to coach the Purple Aces.

Evansville made nine of 30 three-point attempts while shooting 38% from the field to Kentucky's 37%. The Aces also out-rebounded the Wildcats 38-35 and were edged by just 30-28 in points in the paint.

"We started off saying, 'OK, we're going to punch them in the mouth and not let them punch us in the mouth first,'" Williams said. "Once we started getting stops, they started turning the ball over, things like that. We saw that and we took advantage."

## Big picture

**Evansville:** The Purple Aces stuck to their game plan, shooting from deep and outrunning the Wildcats. They trailed only once in the second half and dictated the tempo most of the night.

"We just believed and trusted each other and made plays for each other. Guys came out and gave their all. They've got a good basketball team. Kentucky's going to be a really good team, going to be around at

the end of it," McCarty said. "We played a heck of a game tonight."

**Kentucky:** Missed shots and turnovers forced the Wildcats to play from behind. Even after they managed to tie and take a brief lead, they were beaten to loose balls and could never get over the hump.

"They played with energy for 40 minutes," Kentucky forward Nate Sestina said.

"They had guys who wanted to win and wanted to play hard for 40 minutes. If a guy got tired, they were able to sub somebody else in."

## Time management

Evansville spent 29:34 in front, while Kentucky led for just 5:44.

## Poll implications

A week earlier, then-No. 2 Kentucky knocked off the top-ranked team, ousting Michigan State at Madison Square Garden in the season opener for both squads. It's the first time in AP poll history that two No. 1 teams have lost in November, and the Wildcats' stay at the top of the poll will end next week.



## SPORTS



**Searching for stability**  
Pittsburgh receivers want to support dominant defense » **NFL, Page 30**

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Aces high

Evansville stuns No. 1 Kentucky at Rupp Arena

By GARY B. GRAVES  
*Associated Press*

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Evansville showed no fear of Kentucky or venerable Rupp Arena, where the Wildcats had been perfect at ruining visitors' dreams of pulling off the seemingly impossible.

Until Tuesday night.

Not only did the Purple Aces deal No. 1 Kentucky a stunning 67-64 upset, but they beat the bigger, stronger Wildcats at their own game. When it was over, players, coaches and their fans whooped it up in a corner of the famed court, making sure they savored every bit of a momentous victory.

"To be here is a dream come true," Evansville sophomore forward DeAndre Williams said. "We took advantage and we made history."

Sam Cunliffe scored 17 points, including two free throws with 6.8 seconds remaining to silence Kentucky (2-1) and a crowd of 19,101 — most of whom had expected a routine non-conference victory from the Wildcats, who were 25-point favorites and had earned the top ranking Monday.

SEE ACES ON PAGE 31

## By the numbers

# 39-0

Kentucky's home record, before Tuesday's defeat, against unranked, nonconference opponents when ranked No. 1 by The Associated Press.

SOURCE: Associated Press

DeAndre Williams, top, and Jawaun Newton celebrate Evansville's 67-64 upset victory over Kentucky on Tuesday night in Lexington, Ky.

JAMES CRISP/AP



■ League looking into allegations Astros stole signs in 2017 ■ Kapler hired by Giants

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